

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

September 24, 1998

ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER
Kotzebue, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Willie Goodwin, Chairman
Bert Griest, Vice Chairman
Raymond Stoney, Secretary
Rosalie Ward

Regional Coordinator:

Barbara Armstrong

0002

P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'll call this meeting to order right now even though we don't have a quorum. What we'll do at this point is in the agenda we have some informational items that needs to be shared with the Regional Council members and with the public. We can go over those items here this morning. And then we can try at 1:00 and see if we can find somebody between now and then to take action on some items.

Can you take roll, Barb.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Willie Goodwin.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Stoney. Ricky Ashby is excused. He called earlier. Percy Ballot. Rosie Ward.

MS. WARD: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Walter Sampson. Bert Griest.

MR. GRIEST: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We have three Council members here.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: For this meeting, I think what I'll do is go ahead and have everybody introduce themselves and which organization they represent at this point so that as we discuss some of these information items you'll know who's talking. Why don't we start back over there.

MR. HUNTER: I'm Paul Hunter with National Park Service from Anchorage.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Which Park?

MR. HUNTER: I'm not with any specific park. I'm with the National Park Service Regional Office in Anchorage.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

MR. MAGDANZ: Hi. I'm Jim Magdanz with the Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game covering Northwest and Bering Straits region.

MS. KERR: I'm Leslie Kerr. I am the refuge manager for

0003

1 the Selawik Refuge here in Kotzebue.

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3 MR. KOHLER: I'm Tom Kohler. I'm with the Fish and
4 Game, Commercial Fishing Division here in Kotzebue.

5

6 MR. MOW: I'm Jeff Mow. I'm the Chief of Operations in
7 the Gates of the Arctic National Park. I work out of
8 Fairbanks.

9

10 MS. AYERS: Lee Anne Ayers. Fish and Game here in
11 Kotzebue.

12

13 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong, Fish and Wildlife
14 Service.

15

16 MR. E. ARMSTRONG: Elmer Armstrong representing
17 regional elders.

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong, Coordinator for the
20 Northwest Arctic and North Slope.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's start with Brad.

23

24 MR. SHULTS: I'm Brad Shults. National Park Service,
25 Kotzebue.

26

27 MR. PELTOLA: I'm Gene Peltola, Fish and Wildlife
28 Service, Kotzebue.

29

30 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Lois Dalle-Molle for Park Service,
31 Kotzebue.

32

33 MR. SPIRITES: Dave Spirites, Superintendent out of
34 Kotzebue.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.
37 Stationed in Nome.

38

39 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
40 member.

41

42 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch, Park Service Staff
43 Committee member.

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Sue Detwiler, Fish and Wildlife Service,
46 Subsistence Management Office.

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48 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst, Fish and Wildlife
49 Service Subsistence Office. Wildlife biologist for the team
50 supporting the RAC.

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1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong and I'm the
2 cultural anthropologist for the team that supports this
3 Council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: At this time I'd like to introduce
6 Rosie Ward and welcome her to the Regional Advisory Council for
7 the Northwest area. Rosie is from Kobuk. She is sitting right
8 at the end there. Thank you for willing to serve. We look
9 forward to working with you.

10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Ray called yesterday,
12 Baker's canceled for the plane so he was not able to come.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What we'll do is just go right down
15 the agenda here and work right out of it this morning to get
16 the informational items done with and taken care of. Of course
17 we can't adopt the agenda but there's a couple of things that I
18 would like to clarify here or ask. On the proposals, you know,
19 we -- I wanted to make sure that we have a sheep proposal in to
20 take it -- get it ready for Board action, we'll want -- once we
21 get all the information this fall to replace the special action
22 that we have to continue with the subsistence harvest on
23 Federal lands.

24
25 The other is the moose situation. I did get a copy of
26 a resolution and I distributed to the Federal agencies in
27 Kotzebue and also the subsistence office in Anchorage regarding
28 moose -- the resolution was from the Noorvik IRA asking us to
29 stop sport hunting until a definite and a true number on the
30 population of the moose is done. So they're basically asking
31 for a population count which I think is critical because I
32 understand we don't have any numbers, or recent numbers from
33 the Squirrel River area which is a where a lot of the sport
34 hunters are -- from both in-state and out of state are dropped
35 off at. And it's Noorvik IRA's concern that the sport hunters
36 have an effect on their subsistence take.

37
38 And those are the only two that I want to -- I'll take
39 them up probably under eight and nine -- or eight or nine.
40 Maybe under nine as we discuss the issues here. We can't take
41 any action on the minutes. We can't elect officers without a
42 quorum. If any of the public members want any proposal
43 submitted on their behalf, you can bring them up at any time as
44 we go through the agenda here, even -- and then Barb -- make
45 sure Barb knows what your proposals are and what you would like
46 to see done with respect to management -- the Federal
47 Subsistence Management Program.

48
49 Knowing that we don't have everybody here, maybe I can
50 go ahead ask Bert if he has any concerns from his village?

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1 MR. GRIEST: I don't have any right now, thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Rosie?

4
5 MS. WARD: No, not yet so far.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. The issues that I want to
8 talk about from Kotzebue are the ones that are already on the
9 agenda. So I don't have anything else to add to it. But as we
10 go through the agenda, I'll speak to them from some of the
11 members that have commented to me regarding some of these
12 issues -- members from Kotzebue, I mean.

13
14 Do we have any proposals that the agencies wish to
15 share with us?

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: Willie, do you want me to mention that
18 muskox pertaining to the Seward Peninsula?

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. We have it under nine, under
21 old business, we can take care of it then.

22
23 MR. ADKISSON: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other proposals other than
26 what's on the agenda? Does the BIA have any training they want
27 to give us on subsistence? No, I'm just kidding.

28
29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ha, ha, yes, I do.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What about from the other members of
32 the Regional Council here? We'll just go over what's on the
33 agenda, I think that's.....

34
35 MR. GRIEST: The informational.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Okay, some of the issues --
38 Barb, if you want to discuss it -- good morning, Gordon.

39
40 MR. ITO: Good morning.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Gordon Ito. A resident from
43 Kotzebue, I'd like to introduce. He's been involved -- or
44 involved from the community in our meetings here in Kotzebue.
45 Gordon, we don't have a quorum but we're going over information
46 on the agenda that the agencies will share with us here.
47 That's what we're doing right now until we can find one more
48 member so we can really take action.

49
50 From the annual report, we have a number of issues here

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1 that we'd like to present so that they're on the annual report
2 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The first one is sheep, it's
3 98-Northwest-01 Sheep. Who -- Barb, are you going to take it
4 up or who's.....

5
6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat)

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We're under nine, Tab F.

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, you're on the 9(1)?

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I think you're more informed
15 on it Willie, because there's the minutes and there's a
16 transcript over here to inform you on what happened on the
17 sheep so far. There's some letters with the -- that were sent
18 back and forth regarding the sheep.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then there was the Special
23 Action this summer.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, there's some information in
26 the back. I was involved with this issue here, at least, from
27 June on when we first had the meeting with the local advisory
28 group for the State Fish and Game here. At that point, the
29 survey wasn't completed for the sheep in the DeLongs and the
30 Baird Mountains. So the recommendation at that point was not
31 to do anything until we saw the survey numbers. The survey
32 numbers came in in July. We had a meeting on the 20th, I
33 believe it was, with members of the State advisory group in
34 Kotzebue, the Park Service, members of Kivalina and Noatak,
35 also Regional Council members that were from Noatak, myself,
36 and I'm trying to think of who else was there.

37
38 Anyway, at that point, the State regulation was
39 discussed. In fact the State regulation was passed in February
40 that set seasons and bag limits for sheep, nine for drawing
41 permits in the DeLongs and -- or 11 for drawing permits in the
42 DeLongs and nine for subsistence and also 20 for -- well,
43 that's what their proposal was for their regulation. The
44 numbers that the biologists provided us in the July meeting,
45 their recommendation was that there's 20 harvestable rams in
46 both the DeLongs and the Bairds. The survey numbers came in
47 right around 405 for the Bairds and we felt that that was still
48 low to open a hunt. But since the rams that were suggested for
49 the harvest were probably not going to live through the winter
50 anyway, some of them anyway, they're too old and the biologists

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1 recommended harvesting the rams full-curl or better. At that
2 point we talked about whether or not we should submit a Special
3 Action to the Federal Board for subsistence only on the Federal
4 lands. And it was a consensus that we should do it at that
5 point so the following day we had an information meeting with
6 the Regional Advisory Council. Ricky Ashby was there, Raymond
7 Stoney was there from Kiana, myself and then we had Percy
8 Ballot on the phone. Walter wasn't present. Bert was on
9 travel status to Washington, D.C., so he was unable to tie in
10 with us. That was the point when we submitted the proposal for
11 the Special Action on the sheep for all 40 that was recommended
12 by the biologists to be harvested by subsistence users on
13 Federal lands. And you got to remember, now, at that point
14 also during our meeting on the 21st -- or the 20th, I did
15 specifically ask the biologists, both from the State and the
16 Federal government, whether or not the 20 that we harvested,
17 only from the Federal lands will have an impact on the overall
18 population? And they said no. If we were taking it only from
19 the Federal lands. Because it was at that meeting that the
20 State was concerned that the population might be effected. And
21 that was one of the reasons why we went ahead with the Special
22 Action.

23
24 The Federal Board met on the 30th. I went to that
25 meeting after we had our -- well, we had a Regional Council
26 meeting before that, right after the information meeting here
27 in Kotzebue to request a Special Action because I was afraid at
28 that point after discussions with some of the Staff members in
29 the Federal -- well, in the Park Service, that if we did not
30 follow the procedures that are outlined to ask for a Special
31 Action that there's a possibility that if it does have a
32 challenge, it would be a legal challenge on the procedures that
33 we take to ask for and get the Special Action. So I convened a
34 special meeting with the Regional Advisory Council, I think it
35 was on the 28th. I forget what date exactly. Anyway it was in
36 August there. So right after the Regional Advisory Council
37 meeting, the Federal Board had a meeting and so we presented a
38 Special Action to the Federal Board and they passed it.

39
40 The State, at that point, before that, and they had
41 every opportunity to close their hunt and I think they should
42 have. But it's my feeling and it's my own personal feeling
43 that after some considerable thought on this issue and how we
44 presented our proposal and what the State had done, I think
45 they were looking for a conflict, State/Federal conflict.
46 That's -- and they got it. That was their intent. It's
47 unfortunate, but it's already happened and it will probably
48 happen elsewhere in the State.

49
50 Anyway, they kept their hunt open. The only thing that

0008

1 changed was when the drawing permits -- three of them were on
2 Federal lands so automatically when the Federal Board passed
3 the Special Action those were disqualified. They had eight to
4 get from the State lands. It was also during our meeting, I
5 asked the biologists how many can they -- how many rams did you
6 count on State land, they said nine. So there's a conservation
7 issue that the State should realize is that if you get eight
8 out of nine full-curl rams on your lands, is that conservation?
9 Fortunately, I understand they haven't gotten anything yet, but
10 the fact that they opened the season to get them did pose a
11 conservation issue in my mind anyway.

12
13 So where we're at now is that the Special Action that
14 was passed by the Federal Board is only good for one year. So
15 what we need to do is request that the proposal from the
16 Regional Advisory Council be brought forth for the winter
17 meeting of the Federal Board to pass a proposal that would
18 continue with the subsistence hunt on Federal lands. At that
19 same meeting, in the Federal Board, I requested from the
20 Regional Advisory Council a management plan for the sheep be
21 developed. I was told that it would have to include the State
22 lands, but at this meeting here my intent was to ask for a plan
23 that would also only involve the Federal lands should we get
24 into the same situation that we did this past year with the
25 State on who should have the priority on the sheep. If the
26 survey numbers come back from next year then and it will
27 probably happen in June and July again and the harvestable
28 numbers are at a same or less and if the biologists think that
29 we can harvest only rams, I would like to see only subsistence
30 users have that priority.

31
32 So hopefully as the plan is being developed for the
33 whole range of the DeLongs, that another plan or another
34 amendment to the plan would involve only Federal lands. And if
35 that can be done without any conservation issues that would
36 effect the populations of the sheep, if we can hunt on Federal
37 lands, then I would like to see the hunt proceed for
38 subsistence only. Because I think if we don't come up with
39 something here, and we have, as far as I know every legal right
40 under ANILCA to do that, I get the feeling that the Federal
41 Subsistence Office is saying that we can't because it's a
42 population that involves State lands.

43
44 However, I gave it some more thought and we do have a
45 c&t on sheep on Federal lands and that should take precedence
46 in my mind unless there's some legal issues that I can't think
47 of that would prohibit us from doing a hunt only on Federal
48 lands, then I sure want to hear it. So if somebody can share
49 that with us here. Sandy, you got any information on it or
50 biologists, anybody, tell me that we can't do it?

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1 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't have any -- I can't raise any
2 difficulty, with one exception, to anything you've said. And
3 that is that I know my Board member, Paul Anderson, on the
4 issue of plannings in the future, only on that issue, I know
5 that he wants to stress as much as we can the opportunity to
6 cooperate in planning with the State and everyone else, okay.
7 I know that he wants to go forward, as he said in the Federal
8 Board meeting and that's all on the record, you know, just as
9 you were talking about that earlier. And so the only -- I'm
10 not even sure if I'm disagreeing, but the only point that I
11 would stress sort of, on his behalf, is that he would like to
12 see this planning effort open to any and everybody who's
13 interested to participate. Now, if someone chooses not to
14 participate, so be it, but keep on going ahead and move. But
15 don't close the door -- don't consciously close the door to any
16 stakeholder, including the State. Have a seat at the table for
17 them, encourage everybody to participate and see if there's a
18 way to -- you know, and I'm not -- see if there's a way to cut
19 down on the controversy out in the future.

20
21 So that's the only comment I make. And you know, Paul
22 Anderson and I have talked about this so I think I'm pretty
23 clear of his views. So that's the only one thing I would --
24 well, I'll just share it with you. I mean what you recommend
25 is up to you, but those are his thoughts.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: My intent also is not to shut out
28 the State or anybody who wants to participate because I know at
29 some point in time the population will rise enough so that
30 sport hunters can harvest also. But at this point, while the
31 sheep numbers are low is what I'm getting at. The plan can
32 involve the State with Federal lands and adjoining State lands
33 once a determination is made of how much the population should
34 be to allow sport hunting. But my feeling is, as long as the
35 numbers are low and the survey numbers come in pretty low again
36 next year that it should be only subsistence if there's a
37 harvestable level of sheep out there. And you know, I mean we
38 can hold it to Tony when he says he supports subsistence, but
39 it's only up to a certain point. That's my feeling.

40
41 Could you guys do that? Let me ask Dave or Brad? A
42 plan that would be developed or not a plan, you know, every
43 time you talk about a plan you want everybody to agree to it.
44 So -- and that's where the difficulty is going to be. But if
45 you can develop harvest numbers or suggestions that would allow
46 different types of harvest when the sheep population reaches
47 certain levels, you know. I do know when the survey was
48 conducted that the majority of the sheep were on Federal lands.
49 And that's where most of the sheep are.

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1 MR. SPIRITES: You know, Mr. Chairman, if I can clarify
2 that. I think what we intend to do is to basically go ahead
3 with planning and go ahead with the new methodology for
4 counting sheep which will give us better numbers. And we're
5 just estimating that at least 90 percent of the sheep are
6 located on Federal land. And of course, of that 90 percent
7 subsistence has a priority and there will be no sport hunt
8 until such time as the whole subsistence need is met. What we
9 intend to do is invite the State to participate using our
10 methodology to join in the study, and we certainly hope they do
11 that. It will actually be a State determination as to what
12 they do with the harvest on State land. We tend to be more
13 active with the State Board of Game and attending those
14 meetings and encouraging the State to meet their responsibility
15 for meeting the State subsistence need, but that -- what
16 happens with that 10 percent of the population will be up to
17 them. But with a 90 percent on Federal lands, it's just a
18 straight subsistence priority at this time.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I'm getting at is if the
21 problem that we had this last go around is that we set 20 in
22 the DeLongs and of course, whatever the State got was going to
23 be deducted from that 20 and I didn't like that. I mean I feel
24 that it should be -- all 20 should go to the subsistence user.
25 That's where my problem is.

26
27 MR. SPIRITES: I think perhaps where I'm going is the
28 fact that if we were going to harvest 20 and 90 percent of
29 those were on Federal land, based on the population on Federal
30 land, we might want a Federal harvest of 18 and then the State
31 could take whatever action they wanted on State land. And that
32 we would allow whatever harvest we feel is acceptable on
33 Federal land that's compatible with maintaining a healthy
34 population.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That sounds like a plan. The only
37 thing is I want to make sure that if there were -- if it's only
38 on rams now, that there's careful consideration taken when you
39 count the rams. Make sure that the numbers are accurate. You
40 know, that's what I would ask.

41
42 MR. SPIRITES: Yeah. And we certainly haven't lost
43 sight of the fact that the population hasn't fully recovered.
44 That there area a surplus number of mature rams that can
45 probably be harvested. So our attention for next year is
46 simply on the full-curl rams.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Brad, have you got an estimate of
49 what could be harvested next year or is it still -- just based
50 on your survey numbers that you did a few years ago and what

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1 you think is out there? And I know you've done a number of
2 surveys out there flying.

3
4 MR. SHULTS: Brad Shuts, National Park Service. I
5 guess I got a couple of things to say. To answer that
6 question, I think, you know, we're going to have to look -- for
7 management planning we got two things going on here. One is
8 establishing biological parameters, you know, to determine what
9 a harvestable surplus is, what sex and age classes can be
10 harvested. I mean that answers sort of your latter question.
11 I mean right now it appears that the only thing that's safe to
12 do in terms of conserving the sheep population in Unit 23 is to
13 harvest males only. And that looks like the situation this
14 year, obviously, next year, probably if there's even
15 harvestable surplus next year. Over the long-term, the next
16 five to seven years, we may be right back to where we started
17 with no harvest, okay.

18
19 I think the easy part of a management planning process
20 is to get people together and to get biologists together and
21 agree on the biological population parameters. Those are very
22 easily understandable things. The soft sand we're going to get
23 into is the allocation and that's going to be your job. And we
24 can set the biological cut points and determine what a
25 harvestable surplus is and probably come to some agreement on
26 it. I don't think that's going to be real difficult, it will
27 be hard. But if we involve everybody, including the State, and
28 people that have an interest in it we'll get there. And when
29 it comes to allocation, that's where it's going to get -- the
30 sand is going to be fairly soft. And I don't have the answers
31 to that. I don't think anybody does. But you know, that's
32 going to be part of the management planning process. It's
33 really separate from the bio -- let's not mix and match the
34 two. And I think that's where we're at.

35
36 And what Dave's talking about is we do have some money
37 available starting this year to look at a little bit different
38 methodology in counting sheep. The way sheep have been counted
39 has been great. We've got, really the best data set that's in
40 the State on sheep population changes, it's great. We can
41 maybe do a little bit better job and get a little more specific
42 information. That's what we're going to try to do over the
43 next three years, set ourselves up for collecting that
44 information consistently, and it has been consistent. We're
45 going to get a little bit better at that hopefully and I think
46 it will lend a lot of support to the management planning
47 process.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a way we can draft a
50 proposal to put some percentages on there or on what can be

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1 harvested on Federal lands? You know if the surveys that have
2 been done over the past few years reflect the same amount of
3 numbers of sheep on Federal lands, aside from the State has,
4 then if we're -- have substantial data that would justify us,
5 say, taking 90 percent? Is there a way we can craft a proposal
6 to the Federal Board, can we do that? Or do you want to see
7 numbers?

8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think probably as Brad said, you're
10 getting into the soft sand. But the Federal Board.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, whether it's soft or not, we
13 have the authority under ANILCA to do it.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: I agree. I agree. Hang on one
16 second. The Federal Board has put regulations on the books in
17 the past, Seward Peninsula muskox is an example, I think where
18 there have been -- I will call them similar controversies,
19 okay, and, you know, disagreements, et cetera. And that has
20 happened in the past, Seward Peninsula muskox, where the
21 quotas, and in that instance there were quotas allocated to
22 specific villages.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH:which is -- there's a whole
27 discussion that sort of needs to go on for people to understand
28 how that works. And so the Federal Board did allocate specific
29 numbers of animals to specific villages only on Federal public
30 land. Now, one of the les -- so I think the short answer is
31 yes it's been done it before. The next piece of the short
32 answer is that it hasn't been an easy experience for everybody
33 involved. It's continued to be a rough and rocky or soft sand,
34 if you will -- well, bad term and I don't want to make you mad,
35 I won't use it.

36
37 People have continued to talk, you know, meeting after
38 meeting after meeting about those Seward Peninsula muskox and
39 where the discussion finally got to last year and just
40 yesterday in Nome, Ken Adkisson will bring you up to speed on
41 that a little bit later, is that after, I guess three years of
42 having separate hunts like that, everybody had enough and
43 actually now we have coordinated for the first time this year,
44 right now, there's a coordinated State and Federal hunt for
45 muskox in the Seward Peninsula. And it's dicey. You know, I
46 mean everybody's nervous and keeping a careful eye on things to
47 see how it works. But yeah, it can be done.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well.....

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1 MR. RABINOWITCH: I mean that's my answer. I don't
2 know if everyone else in the room agrees. I'll look around and
3 see.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So what we need to do here during
6 our informal session here to take care of the sheep proposal?
7 Go ahead.

8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, the one thing and I think you
10 already said this so I'm being a little redundant. But I
11 believe that you're absolutely correct about the process that
12 if you look in the current yellow covered Federal book at Page
13 132, you see regulations which were in effect last year. They
14 include a portion, the large portion of Unit 23 being closed,
15 there's no Federal open season. The Special Action that you
16 spoke about changed that for this year, the way you've
17 explained, and that will expire, I believe on June 30th, the
18 end of the regulatory year. So next July 1, if you take no
19 action, you're back to a Federal closure. So you need a vehicle
20 for next year if you want a sheep hunt you need a vehicle. And
21 there's two kinds of vehicles. Another Special Action which
22 you could put forward at any time, and the other is a proposal,
23 you know, you spoke about these. You have until October 23rd
24 of this year to get filed.

25
26 Now, if you go the proposal route, it makes it
27 permanent as you understand. And given what you've said you
28 might find yourself in a year having to do another proposal to
29 close it again or adjust it because the biology is, you know,
30 what you understand.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Can we make a proposal that
33 would tailor what we've done if there's a harvestable number
34 and suggested by the biologist?

35
36 MR. RABINOWITCH: There have been.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Or do we have to wait until the
39 survey is done? Fred.

40
41 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I think you can base it on
42 sustainable yield. You might be able to. But then it would
43 have to be vague language. Because by the time you get the
44 count done, then it can be specifically.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Go ahead, Sandy.

47
48 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I was going to say you could
49 craft a proposal with language that gave you flexibility for up
50 to so many sheep or up to so many full-curl ram kind of

0014

1 language. And then with the understanding that if the biology,
2 you know, next years count, came in at a lower number, maybe
3 you had a hard winter and there was a lot of die-off, let's
4 say, which, you don't know right now whether that'll happen.
5 That even the regulations that up to, I'll just use the number
6 20, if you have a lot of die-off and so, the biologists are
7 telling you no you should only do 10, that you would just do
8 permits up to 10, but you wouldn't have to go back through the
9 regulatory process.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, if we set the season, couldn't
12 the managing agency set the level of harvest after the survey?

13
14 MR. RABINOWITCH: If the regulation delegates that to
15 the local land manager. The Board does that on limited cases
16 around the State, but normally it doesn't.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I think this is a unique
19 situation.

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sure.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Because as I see the numbers, you
24 know, the population of the sheep won't stabilize until
25 probably the year 2005. So we need something in place that
26 would also give the local managing agency and the biologists
27 some authority to set the limit. Sue.

28
29 MS. DETWILER: That brings me back to the
30 recommendation, I think it was you had, Willy, that said
31 instead of setting specific numbers you could submit a proposal
32 asking recommending a specific percentage. And then the
33 numbers would be the percentage based on whatever the June and
34 July harvest figures are or population figures are.

35
36 And the other comment I was going to make was to
37 follow-up on Sandy's comment about his Board member hoping for
38 collaboration in this process. I wasn't around this summer, so
39 I may be, you know, speaking a little bit out of turn here, I'm
40 not totally familiar with the situation up here, but -- in
41 other words, I wasn't involved with the sheep issue this
42 summer. But I do know that when I came back to work for
43 subsistence, the biggest concern was -- it was very difficult
44 for Fish and Wildlife Service because there was so little
45 coordination throughout the process. Things just kind of
46 happened all at the last minute and it put Fish and Wildlife
47 Service in a real difficult situation. And so I think Fish and
48 Wildlife Service would echo the comments that Sandy had about
49 trying to get everybody involved to reach some kind of
50 agreement on in the process or do it collaboratively so that

0015

1 there's not the conflict that we had just recently.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, we asked that early on in the
4 process from the State, you know. Where we're at now is that
5 they passed a regulation, they were going to stick by it. And
6 as long as the sheep numbers were low, you know, I felt and the
7 Regional Council felt that it should be all subsistence. So
8 let's get back down there. What can we do? How can we do it?
9 Let me ask you guys. Do you see what I'm trying to get at? Go
10 ahead Elmer.

11

12 MR. E. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, you know, I spoke to
13 somebody this summer, I don't remember who it was, I've been to
14 all the agencies, as you know this summer about the Bairds.
15 But anyway, you know, I think Leslie's fortunate that we have
16 Ralph Raymond up there in the Selawik area. I think for an
17 honest count, we need to employ someone that lived here or in
18 the Noatak area, wherever the sheep is to be employed and be
19 with the biologists. For one purpose, the count. Because I
20 know in the past years I've hunted. I lived here in Kotzebue
21 for almost 50 years now and my hunting's been in Noatak. And I
22 suggested to someone, I can't remember who it was, but we need
23 to employ someone that's been there. Because the route of
24 sheep crossing rivers, we educated Jim, I notice he's not here
25 today, but you know, we told him where the sheep cross to the
26 mountains that they hunt sheep.

27

28 Until we do this, I really can't say that we're going
29 to get an honest count. Because we should have someone, you
30 know, employed, one person to be with the biologists to get an
31 honest count of those sheep.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Elmer. Jim you had your
36 hand up a little bit ago.

37

38 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman, Jim Magdanz with the
39 Division of Subsistence. The discussion's moved on a little
40 bit, but I guess the point I was thinking of making was the
41 question to do a proposal or whether to do a Special Action
42 request. The approach that we've taken ever since the hunt was
43 closed was to leave the regulation permitting the hunt on the
44 books and then close it with an emergency order. Our version
45 of Special Actions. Because at least from where we sit, that
46 emergency order authority is easy and quick. A proposal to
47 open a hunt takes time and deliberation to craft. And I think
48 kind of what happened this summer was people were reacting in
49 the heat of the moment through a Special Action request and
50 some of the reactions weren't perhaps as well considered as

0016

1 they might have been if this discussion about what to do had
2 taken place the way proposal discussions do over an entire
3 winter. And I think the opportunities for coordination are
4 going to be greater if the proposal process is followed than if
5 the Special Action request is followed. And you know, I would
6 like to see a coordinated effort to develop, you know, regular
7 regulations for sheep hunting on both sides, State and Federal.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I would go along with that if they
10 would count the sheep on State lands. Fred. Thank you, Jim,
11 are you done?

12
13 MR. MAGDANZ: Go ahead, yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, Fred, did you have a comment?

16
17 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: No.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, we're back to where we're at
20 here. How can we crack this? The other thing -- the other
21 issue that I want to talk about at the same time is we were
22 limited to only one per hunter. At some point in time we're
23 going to have to make that more. Whether it's one between
24 early July and the end of September and then one more later on,
25 it doesn't make any difference to me but I think we should be
26 allowed to get more than one. Especially those that hunt all
27 the time, you know. Is somebody taking notes on this? Helen,
28 go ahead.

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm taking notes is what I was
31 saying. We just looked in the regulations for an example of
32 what you're asking for and there is in Unit 17, an example of
33 where it says, the season harvest limit and hunt area to be
34 announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. So there's
35 been a precedence set that they also then give the -- by the
36 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge manager, between August 1st and
37 March 31st, so that it could be announced. So there has been a
38 precedent set. It's a pretty simple process to do that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Can we get the Park
41 Service to craft one? Sandy, a proposal? I would like some
42 kind of a proposal written before the February meeting, let me
43 say this.

44
45 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, in terms of a proposal it needs
46 to be in by the 23rd of October to just work with.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can we put one in here by consensus
49 here from the three of us?

50

0017

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, it only takes one person to
2 sign.....

3
4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You can put a proposal in
5 individually.

6
7 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, as a Council, because you don't
8 have a quorum, you cannot put in a proposal.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Any of you as individuals, anybody in
13 this room for that matter.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, let me ask you guys then.....

16
17 MR. RABINOWITCH: Anyone can write a proposal and
18 submit it. The actual submitting of a proposal is very easy,
19 you just need one person.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

22
23 MR. GRIEST: Yeah.

24
25 MR. RABINOWITCH: I scribbled down some words which I'm
26 willing to read, just thinking out loud if you want them?

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Read. Read it.

29
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: What I've scribbled down is, up to 20
31 full-curl rams may be taken annually. The quota will be
32 announced locally, you could copy the wording, you know, what
33 was just before, after the annual population survey is
34 completed. Bag limit one full-curl ram. The season, I'll
35 assume for a moment you'll stick with what you set up for this
36 year. And then the other things that I wrote down that you
37 could think about and you could discuss this at your winter
38 meeting but you could think about whether or not you wanted to
39 use a Federal registration permit. It's just an option.
40 There's some pros and cons that you could talk about with that.
41 You could also think about whether you wanted to get into a
42 discussion of actually allocating -- let's say there's going to
43 be 20 for a moment. You could discuss whether you wanted that,
44 as a Council, recommend an allocation; so many to Noatak, so
45 many to Kivalina, so many to Kotzebue, et cetera. This year
46 you didn't do that. But you can do those kinds of things if
47 you think that's a good thing to do. And then the other thing
48 that I wrote down is that you could have a clause that says if
49 the number of animals after the survey, okay, so now you got
50 the really updated number are less than X, you guys figure out

0018

1 what that number is, Federal public lands would be closed to
2 non-qualified subsistence users. And that's a point, you know,
3 that you were making. That if the animal -- the number of
4 animals aren't enough to meet the subsistence need, you
5 identify what that number is then it's real clear to everybody,
6 way up front. The data comes in, see where it falls and a
7 clause like that either kicks in or doesn't. But you've been
8 able to discuss that with your Council and make your
9 recommendation. And that cuts down on the surprise, so to
10 speak.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert, did you have a comment?

13
14 MR. GRIEST: That's kind of what I was thinking about.
15 We still need to see if we can, you know, be sure the process
16 is pretty much open. I know even if we end up disagreeing with
17 the way the outcome might be from the State's standpoint and
18 the standpoint of the subsistence users, at the end I think we
19 still need to, I think, collaborate and come up with a very
20 sound decision as to why we ended up with a decision at the
21 end. And I think the State needs to understand our mandate as
22 well, coming from the village level. I think there's some
23 perception developing from the State's standpoint that we're
24 acting unilaterally and we're just cutting out guides and
25 sports hunting primarily because that we're trying to just do
26 everything for subsistence only. We're a Federal Subsistence
27 Advisory Board and we're charged with looking after the
28 interests of our subsistence users. To say that we're going to
29 do this all the time, I don't think that's a right assertion of
30 what we're trying to do. I think we're -- we will listen to
31 both sides, there's no question about that.

32
33 And I'm -- I know where we're coming from and I know
34 where the State's coming from, and I know some of the players
35 involved behind the State. Some of the people that are pushing
36 the State. Some of these guys that's been involved for years
37 and years and years that actually were residents around here
38 and they are guides and they have self-interests. And I know
39 what they're doing with the State, you know. That's got to be
40 illuminated through the process somehow so that the real
41 decision is, you know, we're charged with trying to meet the
42 subsistence needs. And we're not trying to, you know, separate
43 State versus Federal. We're trying to do our job. So I
44 understand your point you were making earlier about making sure
45 that we lower any conflict with the State. We're not trying to
46 make conflict with the State, they're the ones that are
47 creating the conflict, and that needs to be more or less
48 pointed out.

49
50 So I think at the end we will make a very sound

0019

1 decision. Everybody needs to know why we make them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They should keep coming back to the
4 numbers here. And as long as the numbers are low, I think we
5 should continue what we're doing. But there's some discussion
6 on where that number should be. So let me ask Gordon, he's
7 been sitting on the State Advisory Board for Unit 23 for a
8 number of years here. And let me ask him why, 450 was a number
9 that was discussed to say that as long as the numbers are below
10 450 we shouldn't have a hunt.

11

12 MR. ITO: Mr. Chairman, first off my name is Gordon
13 Ito. I'm a resident hunter here in Kotzebue. And I'd like to
14 commend this Board for their recent action they've taken on the
15 sheep about -- from the people. I think the numbers came out
16 that we felt a little bit uncomfortable with. I'm going to
17 slide aside from the question first off and -- if I could make
18 a few comments on this Federal Subsistence Board that -- this
19 Advisory Committee, that I had reservations before it was
20 instated. I felt a little bit uneasy in the decisions and
21 decisionmaking with the Federal government and the State
22 government and we're just putting another layer of government
23 on top of our regulations. And what was happening was I think
24 the people were more afraid of having another form of
25 government intermingling with the way the process was actually
26 one of resource management. And at this time I think I feel a
27 little bit more at ease that this Federal Subsistence Advisory
28 Committee has been listening to the people. And the decisions
29 they were making were sure footed like a sheep going across the
30 mountains.

31

32 We feel very comfortable, myself, that the decision
33 that was made, I think it was on the State's behalf that they
34 defaulted on their decisions. We were going a little bit
35 backwards here as we went through several rounds of meetings on
36 the sheep issue. And the State kept on coming back and saying,
37 well, we're not going to make any decisions until we get the
38 sheep count. And the sheep count comes in 10 days before they
39 open the season. Well, I think the State got to go back and
40 turnaround and do their sheep count a little bit earlier so
41 that the information can be on the table and make a real sound
42 judgment on what they should be doing. I feel a little bit
43 uncomfortable that the State come back and said, well, you
44 know, the Federal Subsistence Board at the last hour and the
45 last minute has come back and explained to everybody saying
46 that, well, you know, they're just cutting out the sport
47 hunters. That's unproved. I feel very strongly that that's
48 unproved.

49

50 What happened here was the State came back and they

0020

1 decided well, they gave out the 11 hunts. Their 11 permits, I
2 guess you could say, and then three of those got taken out of
3 eight because there wasn't that many animals on their land and
4 they knew that to start with. So I think the State should have
5 came back to this Federal Advisory Committee and apologize for
6 I think the backlash that everybody was very, very confused
7 about. As you had stated earlier on this point that the State
8 was just looking for a reason to say, well, State and Federal
9 management won't work. Well, if the State keeps up its
10 attitude like a little kid and kibitzing, I think maybe it
11 won't work. I think they have to come to the table, they have
12 to put everything on the table and say, well, this is how we
13 got to work it out. We're adults and this is the process we're
14 going to use.

15
16 Getting back to the sheep -- or the 50. I think we're
17 looking at brut stock here. We have a problem with predation.
18 I think I'm taking a look at the moose now. I'm getting very
19 concerned about the moose that are out there. Because this
20 time of year, I flew up by Phil Driver's camp up here on the
21 Wulik and I counted 10 racks. Ten moose racks sitting there on
22 his runway. And I didn't see very much meat sitting there with
23 it. Making me concerned. I know moose season this time of
24 year and your moose goes into rut, your rutted meat doesn't
25 taste very good. It smells very bad. I can walk into
26 somebody's house when they're cooking rutted meat and I can
27 tell them, that's bad meat because I know the difference
28 between a rutted moose and one that's not in rut. What's going
29 on right now is we have a little nest egg up in the Selawik
30 Wildlife Refuge here that we have to take care of because when
31 we get to the point of over harvesting, which is that's what
32 the problem was with the sheep. The brut stock. If you don't
33 have the brut stock, then they aren't going to come back.
34 Because when you have predation working on your animals, your
35 animals won't -- they don't get the chance to come back.
36 They're going to flat line. They're going to get on a level to
37 where, I think -- if you take a look at the bear problem here.
38 It's not only the bear problem we have but the wolf problem we
39 have. There's several bears up here and there's quite a few
40 wolves. Well, these wolves and these bears, they have to eat
41 something. We -- I guess we, as a committee, or advisory
42 committee, as a governing body for the management of the
43 resources should take a very close look at where sharing --
44 where in all actuality we are sharing the predation with the
45 wolves and the bears and everything else. The reason we came
46 up with that number was because if you don't have your brut
47 stock to build it back up, and we over harvest on brut stock,
48 well, the bears and the wolves aren't going to over harvest
49 because that's just their day-to-day operations. They're going
50 to eat. They have to eat. And when it gets to the point in

0021

1 time to where they don't have anything to eat, well, they're
2 going to start starving off too. So we're getting into
3 competition with our predators.

4
5 I know they've shut down a lot of the hunting on wolves
6 out of aircraft. They've opened up a lot of the bear hunting,
7 the spring hunts. I know the State's going pretty much steam
8 forward with the bears. I would like to see some management
9 plan on our moose at this point in time because I really don't
10 want to see us get to the point of this sheep -- what we did
11 with the sheep when the numbers became too low and what
12 happened is now we're trying to manage and slide in a couple of
13 hunts on top of our sheep.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Gordon, we're going to talk about
16 moose on the next item. But I wanted to know about how the
17 committee came up with 450 sheep. Was that a discussion
18 amongst yourself and with the biologists to say that.....

19
20 MR. ITO: Oh, okay, yeah.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

23
24 MR. ITO: I apologize, Mr. Goodwin. Yeah, that is a
25 number that we came up with, our biologists were doing the
26 surveys. They have very good numbers actually in certain
27 areas. When they do a survey, they have to survey this many
28 sheep in this area at this time of year. That's why they
29 couldn't go back and tell us, well, there's so many sheep
30 sliding this side here that we actually can't count. What
31 they've done is they've got their certain areas of sheep are in
32 at a certain time of year. Well, the weather's been changing.
33 Maybe they might miss a few, but they don't miss a whole bunch.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So what's a good number in the
36 Bairds, 450?

37
38 MR. ITO: Well, I would push it more closer to 500.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Five hundred?

41
42 MR. ITO: Five hundred.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How about in the DeLongs?

45
46 MR. ITO: Well, in the DeLongs, maybe I would say
47 someplace in the neighborhood of probably 300, you know, 350,
48 someplace around there.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And that was, if I remember right,

0022

1 the 800 was a pretty steady number of a long time until they
2 took a dive?

3
4 MR. ITO: Right.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And they've gone above 1,000.

7
8 MR. ITO: Yes, they have.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Close to 1,100 total between the
11 DeLongs and the Bairds. Well, if we look at 500 for the Bairds
12 and 300 for the DeLongs, that would be a comfortable number?

13
14 MR. ITO: That would be for the brut stock.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

17
18 MR. ITO: Yes, it would be.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So the number 450 was
21 discussed in the State Advisory Board, that no hunt should be
22 allowed until the Bairds reach 450. That was discussions with
23 both biologists or the State biologists?

24
25 MR. ITO: We discussed it with the State biologists.
26 We haven't had too much discussion with the Federal biologists.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

29
30 MR. ITO: The numbers that -- it was very confusing at
31 the time that the sheep hunt had opened. And what they put on
32 the table and how they were extrapolating their numbers. Mr.
33 Magdanz over here is their subsistence coordinator and Jim Dau
34 and Lee Anne Ayers over here, when we put the numbers on the
35 table, they said, well, when the numbers come back we'll sit
36 down and decide what we're going to do. Well, the State
37 already gave out because it's an open hunt. See it's very
38 confusing when you have an open hunt, it's on the books, okay,
39 they're going to open this hunt and then they give out 11
40 permits. Well, three of them come up for that 11 permits and
41 then they say, well, oh, the Federal Board says we got to close
42 it because we got to get the subsistence needs out there first.
43 And well, it's not really the Federal Board's problem when they
44 close it to sport hunting and open it up to subsistence hunting
45 because the subsistence should get their fill first. I think
46 it's the other way around.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If we submit a proposal, it will be
49 Federal Board action that will take precedence over the State
50 on Federal lands. If we say only subsistence until the

0023

1 population is 500 in the Bairds and 300 in the DeLongs and
2 that's what it's going to be. And that's what I was leading up
3 to earlier when I said that as long as the population numbers
4 are low, the subsistence users have a priority. Sure I don't
5 have a problem with -- or anybody has a problem if the numbers
6 are high enough that sport hunting can occur at the same time
7 on the Federal lands. And that's what I'm leading to here, is
8 if we submit a proposal with those numbers in there, would our
9 people feel comfortable, would the biologists feel comfortable;
10 then we should proceed with that.

11
12 MR. ITO: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But as long as the numbers are low
15 right now and there's a harvestable number of rams that are
16 going to die anyway -- like the one I got was 12 years old, you
17 know. I mean he didn't have much longer to continue to breed
18 so -- in fact, the teeth were pretty worn, you know, the one I
19 got. But anyway.....

20
21 MR. ITO: Well, yeah, your numbers are pretty close to
22 800 in all the brut stock. If they're looking at 1,100, that's
23 what -- you know, there's a few that they do miss. They're
24 pretty close to their count on their numbers. When I was
25 sitting up there I counted 27 sheep on one hill, on another
26 hill I counted 17, and I had a couple ewes and a doe come --
27 lambs come right down by the -- right by the airplane, just
28 walked right up the other mountain. And yeah, there's numbers
29 out there that, you know, they're starting to come back.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. ITO: I didn't take a sheep this year because I
34 felt that at this point in time they're still building. And if
35 people want to hunt them, that's fine and we're opening it back
36 up this winter, probably go back out and get them. But your
37 numbers are fairly close, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

40
41 MR. ITO: I think those numbers we would feel good.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Gordon. If we get done,
44 I'll ask you some more on the moose and stuff, you know, but
45 we're just on the sheep.

46
47 MR. ITO: Yeah, I was just here, that's why I -- I
48 didn't know, I was looking at your agenda, I see that you're
49 going to be discussing moose here.

50

0024

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. ITO: And I think that's probably why I'm here.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Let me get back to Brad. The
6 suggestion that we're talking about is 500 and 300 to get a
7 stable population of sheep out there until we open to sport
8 hunting.

9

10 MR. SHULTS: Like I said earlier, I think what we need
11 to look at is not one thing.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

14

15 MR. SHULTS: But look at a sweep of biological
16 parameters. That means, how many lambs are they producing.
17 How many lambs are growing up to be adults. What segment of
18 the population is male. And what size classes those males are.
19 Which depends a lot on the recruitment. And the danger of
20 looking at just total numbers is that, you know, right now we
21 got probably an increasing sheep population, but look what's
22 going on in terms of the harvest and the surplus. There's not
23 much of what people want to hunt. And that's the danger in
24 setting numbers -- one number and say that's what we're going
25 to manage by. And I think that would be a mistake. And that's
26 something that would come out in the management planning
27 process. We'd say, well, we're going to look at this, this,
28 this and this, in combination to get to where we want to be and
29 there can be specific rules for that. But if you take the
30 highs for the Bairds and the low for the Bairds, you'll come up
31 with somewhere between 500 to 700. You know, 400 to 600 is
32 sort of the mean number of total sheep. But what we really
33 ought to look at is maybe total adults. Because 30 percent of
34 the total number is lambs each year.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Have you got a suggestion at this
37 point?

38

39 MR. SHULTS: I think I'd prefer to discuss it more in
40 terms of what a total number or a total adult number.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What about if we submitted a
43 proposal that would still say 20 right now full-curl ram?

44

45 MR. SHULTS: I think it's unlikely that you're going to
46 have a harvestable surplus greater than 20 next year and it's
47 more likely that it would be lower. And I think that if you
48 craft a regulation that Sandy says, up to 20 and the total will
49 be announced prior to the hunt.

50

0025

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The quota would be 20 full-curl rams
2 -- up to 20 full-curl rams may be taken annually. A quota will
3 be announced locally after the annual population survey is
4 completed.

5
6 MR. SHULTS: Then I think that's reasonable.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any problem with me
9 submitting this as a proposal? You know, since we can't take
10 action on it and anybody can submit one. Lee Anne.

11
12 MS. AYERS: When you're talking about and those
13 numbers, that was just for the Bairds. If you're going to do a
14 regulation that encompasses both the Bairds and the
15 DeLongs.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, the DeLongs is still too low.

18
19 MS. AYERS: Okay. I just wanted to make sure that you
20 were.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

23
24 MS. AYERS: If you wanted an all encompassing
25 regulation and you were going to have a separate quota for the
26 DeLongs and the Bairds then, you know, you would.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

29
30 MS. AYERS:I thought perhaps you were talking
31 about one quota for both and 20 was just for the Bairds and
32 then for the DeLongs.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is 20, Brad, for the Bairds only
35 or.....

36
37 MS. SHULTS: Yeah, I think Lee Anne makes a really good
38 point. Because I believe and I would suggest to you that the
39 system that was set up by the State to manage geographically
40 for the biological parameters is a good one. I mean if that is
41 based on good data and makes sense, biologically, it's kind of
42 cross ways from the allocation thing, but it's a good way. You
43 know, so let's keep the Schwatka's separate from the DeLongs,
44 from the Bairds, and that works very well. And so I think that
45 when you apply numbers, apply them in that fashion, I would
46 concur a 100 percent. But that's a good idea.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy.

49
50 MR. RABINOWITCH: To follow-up then on both comments in

0026

1 terms of what was written down and Willie was just reading
2 from, would you then further add to that so that you had, you
3 broke the 20 into -- so many of that 20 for the Bairds and so
4 many for the DeLongs, if I'm following what both you are saying
5 or not?

6
7 MS. AYERS: Just the Bairds.

8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just the Bairds. So that would say
10 up to 20 sheep, for the Baird mountains, so it was very clear
11 that.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And up to 20, for the DeLongs.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH:that you were talking about just
16 the Bairds.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

19
20 MS. AYERS: And just to follow-up on the numbers and
21 where some of the numbers came from for the 450. For the
22 DeLongs we've never -- since -- I guess '83 was the last time
23 there was an attempt to enumerate sheep in the DeLongs. So
24 we've never put forth a number -- locked in a number for the
25 DeLongs simply because we've never counted all the sheep in the
26 DeLongs like we feel we've come close to in the Bairds. So
27 what Brad's talking about trying to do, you know, this coming
28 year, we'll get at that. And that would be the time we could
29 look at population size, and then start looking at the
30 percentage of population on State lands and Federal land. But
31 up until now, we don't have that -- the big number that I think
32 you're asking for.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I realize that. That's why I'm
35 asking why -- if we can do it up to 20 with the authority from
36 the local manager to set the quota. Knowing that this year the
37 numbers came in at 175 at the DeLongs?

38
39 MR. SHULTS: Actually we only counted a small portion
40 of the DeLongs.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. And that's why I'm
43 saying.....

44
45 MR. SHULTS: And this year we actually counted a
46 smaller portion.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:it came in at 175, yeah.

49
50 MR. SHULTS: I mean we only enumerated 130 sheep or so

0027

1 -- or 120 sheep to get composition.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. SHULTS: We're more interested in composition up
6 there and lamb production and lamb recruitment than we are in
7 total numbers.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But for the harvest you realize
10 you'll have to come in with a total number. So to get back at
11 Gordon's point here, if we craft this to do 20 and 20, up to,
12 it will give you time to enumerate all the adults, the lambs to
13 give us a better idea if we need to change that regulation at a
14 point in time later on?

15
16 MR. SHULTS: I think we'll have the information to
17 determine those harvestable quotas. I would stop short at
18 saying we're not going to be able to enumerate sheep in the
19 DeLongs right now.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right.

22
23 MR. SHULTS: We're geographically challenged there. We
24 just can't do it. It's impossible to do with the resources we
25 have. But we can come up with the numbers to make decisions,
26 and those -- they've been doing that every year.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would you feel comfortable on the
29 20/20?

30
31 MR. SHULTS: Up to.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Up to.

34
35 MR. SHULTS: With the wording up to.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

38
39 MR. SHULTS: Like I said, I don't believe that you're
40 going to have a harvestable surplus greater than that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right.

43
44 MR. SHULTS: And, in fact, I think it will be less next
45 year.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

48
49 MS. SPIRITES: Mr. Chairman, Dave Spirites. If I could
50 clarify one other thing about your discussion with Gordon. I

0028

1 think that the Federal Subsistence Board has basically
2 instructed us to really go ahead with a cooperative sheep
3 management plan involving all interested parties. And that's
4 what we would do with extensive local involvement. And the
5 kind of issues that Brad raised about making a long-term
6 determination of harvest and better way of determining the
7 total population so we could get better numbers in the future.
8 And we certainly intend to do that with extensive local
9 involvement. And so right now we're talking about this -- a
10 short-term solution for this temporary surplus of rams only.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's what I mean, that once we get
13 all the numbers, then we can start saying 90 percent on Federal
14 lands, you know, or whatever number comes in. And that's what
15 the regulations will read at that time. You know, hopefully
16 the State, at that time, will say they can live with that.

17
18 MS. AYERS: Well, it's certainly easy in the Bairds
19 where it's 100 percent.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. But I'm also looking at the
22 DeLongs where the sand will be. Okay, are we all clear on
23 everything that we want to do?

24
25 MR. GRIEST: Let's take a break at this point.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, that's what I want to do, I
28 want to take a break. But if we missed something here and
29 we'll reconvene back. Lois.

30
31 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Could you just read sort of how
32 you're thinking right now for the reg.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sure. Okay, full-curl rams up to 20
35 from the Bairds and up to 20 from the DeLongs may be taken
36 annually. The quota will be announced locally after the annual
37 population survey is completed with, at this time, a Federal
38 registration permit. I'm not going to talk about quotas with
39 the villages right now because they're not here.

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Excuse me for interrupting. I wrote
42 down those three things, permits, the quotas and whatever else
43 as things you could either include or not include, it's your
44 wish.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We're not going to talk about the
47 closing of the other hunters at this time until we get these
48 survey numbers in. You know, I don't want to muddy it more
49 than what it's already muddied right now. Let's take 10
50 minutes.

0029

1 (Off record)

2 (On record)

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's get back to our discussion
5 here. Based on what we just got through saying about the
6 sheep, what I'd like to ask is the Federal agencies develop the
7 proposal for us, tailoring what we just said so that it comes
8 out more clear when it's presented to the Federal Board. Just
9 give us a chance to review it, but basically what we're saying
10 here this morning for the proposal. Fish and Wildlife.

11

12 MS. DEWHURST: What I was planning to do is draft all
13 the language and since it's technically your proposal fax it to
14 you and get your okay and then we'll put it -- submit it at
15 that time.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can you share that with the other
18 Staff members?

19

20 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: BIA and BL -- and whoever else is
23 here. Also you know, if you could bend so to speak if you wish
24 to involve the State knowing that and relay the concerns that
25 we have and also the numbers that have -- the survey numbers
26 that keep coming back right around 90 percent. And then we'll
27 have more information later on after more extensive surveys are
28 done with respect to the adult population to kind of take care
29 of the concern that the local advisory board might have with
30 respect to the breeding stock and how much can be harvested.

31

32 Also I know the BLM, from the Federal Board's point of
33 view needs to and wants to be involved in the management plan,
34 see if they can't take in some money to count the sheep, that
35 would help you. Maybe we could ask that from the BLM. I know
36 the Board member expressed a -- or indicated that his agency
37 would be involved in the management plan for the sheep. So
38 without them being involved in the counting or the survey
39 process, it would make it easier, I think, for them to agree to
40 what numbers can come out, if that will be a problem. I don't
41 think it will be. But if they can kick in some money to help
42 to get a really extensive survey on the Federal lands, that
43 would certainly help. And of course, if the State has money,
44 by golly we can use that to to count sheep. Especially if the
45 big concern that they have with regard to the DeLongs --
46 spreading out all over the DeLong Mountains. What we want to
47 see is a report or survey that takes into consideration all of
48 the lands.

49

50 Lois.

0030

1 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Can I just make a real quick comment
2 or ask you a question then? Thank you. This is Lois Dalle-
3 Molle. I was wondering if I could just ask a question maybe of
4 the small Council that's here, one of the things that's
5 happened this year that was a criticism, I guess, of how the
6 situation was was the fact that the intentions were only
7 announced 10 days ahead of time. I'm wondering if it would be
8 valuable just to say 10 months ahead of time, then if the Board
9 still feels that if the allowable harvest, whatever it is for
10 next year, if that doesn't meet the subsistence need, then you
11 intend to ask for that allowable harvest to be for subsistence
12 use only. It seems to me if we said that up front, in October,
13 then at least there wouldn't be that criticism that, well, you
14 waited until 10 days beforehand to tell us that's what you
15 intended to do. So it seems like you could say, you know, if
16 the allowable harvest is less than the 43 and the 18 or
17 whatever the numbers were, then we want that allowable harvest
18 for Federal subsistence use off Federal lands and we intend to
19 ask for that, and just say that up front at this point.

20
21 Maybe it wouldn't be a reg -- I think it's good to have
22 a reg like you're suggesting on the books, but maybe just make
23 that statement so everybody knows.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I just made it.

26
27 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: I think maybe.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, that is a valid point. It
30 should be mentioned and the survey numbers may come in lower, I
31 don't know, you know. And if they do, then we certainly want
32 the State's concurrence on the harvest numbers. Hopefully, the
33 State Advisory Board can come in pretty strong and make those
34 wishes known knowing that the final survey numbers won't come
35 in until mid-July or the latter part of July, and at that
36 point, right after that point -- you know, I know that we're
37 going to probably suggest again that -- what the season for the
38 Federal hunt starts August 10th? Well, at least that's what I
39 wanted to see. And that before that time, if the survey
40 numbers come in, then that gives the Park Service and BLM some
41 time to set the limit.

42
43 Ken, did you have anything?

44
45 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.
46 Just regarding the season, I think the August 10th date that
47 was set was really a compromise between when we could actually
48 get the permits out into the hands of the users and things and
49 you may want to consider an earlier season opening. Because I
50 think we originally started the discussion with an earlier

0031

1 season.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We did talk about August 1st, you
4 know, when we were discussing this issue for the Special
5 Action. But now that you have the permit system in place,
6 maybe we can go back to that, uh, August 1st?

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: That's your call.

9

10 MR. GRIEST: August 1st.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think August 1st would be okay.
13 Well, I think we've talked enough sheep for this meeting here
14 unless somebody else has anything that we missed. If not, you
15 know, I understand Raymond will be here -- is it Raymond?

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: He'll be here at 1:00 o'clock, he's
20 in another board meeting right now. So I think we should
21 recess until 1:00 so that we can take some specific actions on
22 the moose. We've already decided what we're going to do with
23 the sheep. Go ahead, Helen.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If I could be so bold to suggest,
26 just having gone through a day meeting at Seward Peninsula, we
27 have enough on the agenda that it might be wise for us at least
28 to do agency reports now because I don't think we'll get
29 finished if we wait to do all the rest of it this afternoon.
30 That's just my feeling. I don't know if other people who were
31 in the Seward Penn meeting would agree.

32

33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We could go through the evening,
34 too.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What does the Board wish? You know,
37 I could move the meeting along pretty fast here.

38

39 MR. GRIEST: I'd like to hear agency reports.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Let's get on with Agency
42 Reports, if that's no problem with anybody here. Rosie?

43

44 MS. WARD: It's fine.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Item 10. When we convene,
47 also back at 1:00 o'clock, I also want to discuss the user
48 conflict issue that keeps coming up. So if we can refrain from
49 some of that at this point and discuss it further this
50 afternoon, that would be better, I think, so that we have a

0032

1 full quorum here. If there's action that needs to be taken,
2 we'll take it then. So with that in mind, let's get right on
3 to the agency reports and the first one up is U.S. Fish and
4 Wildlife Service of Subsistence Management.

5
6 There's some action items here. If we can keep away
7 from them it would be helpful. Like number 1, I think you're
8 asking for suggestions, if I look at the meeting material,
9 suggestions from the Regional Council on c&t.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: C&T is something that needs a
12 Council decision.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. So we can wait for that. How
15 about Federal Subsistence Restructure.

16
17 MS. DETWILER: The next several items are just
18 informational items. And I can go through them real briefly,
19 especially the first -- up until, actually D, I think, they're
20 basically old agenda items that you already covered at your
21 last session. If you want I can just briefly talk about those
22 or since you talked about them at your last meeting, I can skip
23 over them.

24
25 What you have in your book, Section I, after Page 4 is
26 one page on Federal Subsistence Board restructuring. And
27 that's an old issue, it's been pretty much resolved for now.
28 For Mrs. Ward, just for your information, I don't know if
29 you've been up to speed on this issue or not, but for the last
30 few years the Regional Councils have been asking for the Board
31 to be restructured so that it's composed of subsistence users
32 who they felt could more accurately reflect subsistence uses,
33 decisions and Board decisionmaking. So last year the Board
34 setup a Board restructuring task force to evaluate options for
35 restructuring the Board. And the task force had Bill Thomas on
36 it, who is the head of the Southeast Regional Council and then
37 Mitch Demientieff, and then a couple of Board members. And
38 they evaluated options and they sent out information to the
39 Regional Councils to comment on as well as options for
40 restructuring the Board. And then based on the comments that
41 they got back from the Regional Councils, the task force
42 recommended to the Board to retain the existing Board structure
43 but to provide more opportunity for Regional Council members to
44 comment during Board meetings. So that's what they did this
45 spring. They didn't change the Board structure. Actually the
46 Board would have to recommend to the Secretaries to change the
47 Board structure. And they simply allowed an extra opportunity
48 for Council members to comment during the Board meeting. And
49 they also discussed it at the Joint Board/Chair Council meeting
50 and the Council members will dissatisfied with the decision not

0033

1 to restructure the Board. So where they left it at the Joint
2 Board/Chair Council meeting was to reevaluate Board structure
3 as fisheries implementation goes along. There might be a need
4 to restructure the Board at that time. So we'll just wait and
5 see how fisheries plays out and if there is a need to
6 restructure the Board, they would evaluate one of the options
7 that was considered in the EIS which would have a Board
8 composed of 16 members which would include the members of the
9 Regional Councils. So that's that issue.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let me see if I can add on here with
12 respect to some of the Councils who want to restructure the
13 Board. The Federal Board did allow the Chairs to sit in with
14 the Board when items are discussed and questions to the
15 Regional Chairs from the Federal Board on issues in the Board
16 meeting that effect the various regions. So they've made steps
17 into -- they have taken some steps to accommodate the Regional
18 Council's wishes. In fact, one of the wishes was to have a
19 Native sitting on it, so in the last meeting down in Anchorage
20 I said, well, you got employees working there at Fish and
21 Wildlife Service, so Mr. Allen appointed Craig to sit in and
22 vote for Fish and Wildlife Service at that time. He was pretty
23 good. I liked that. Now, we're working on Niles to let Ida
24 sit up there and vote.

25
26 Go ahead.

27
28 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The next page in your book is a
29 page on the consent agenda. And that's also been implemented.
30 It's basically a way of consolidating all the proposal items
31 that everybody agrees on and just adopting them in one fell
32 swoop at the Board meeting instead of having to go through the
33 more exhaustive Staff reports and comments and everything. The
34 Board wanted to be able to expedite its use -- its processing
35 of those agenda items so that it could focus on the ones that
36 were more consensus. So they did that at the spring meeting
37 this year in May and they were -- the Board was done in three
38 days, so it seemed to work pretty well.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I was going to say, a five day
41 meeting was cut down to three. And it could be cut down
42 shorter yet.

43
44 MS. DETWILER: Yeah. The next page is the new policy
45 on submitting requests for reconsideration and Special Actions.
46 And that is simply a policy identifying what criteria there are
47 for submitting requests for reconsideration and Special Actions
48 and things that don't meet those -- proposals that don't meet
49 those criteria need to go into the next regulatory cycle. And
50 that was also discussed at the last meeting.

0034

1 The newer issue is the fisheries -- extension of
2 fisheries management. So following, I think, two pages after
3 the Special Action page is the beginning of the summary of all
4 the comments that we've gotten on fisheries management.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did you talk about the stipend?

7
8 MS. DETWILER: Pardon me?

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The stipend?

11
12 MS. DETWILER: The stipend, I'm sorry. That issue
13 basically ended as well. Mitch rewrote a letter to the
14 Secretary of Interior reiterating Council members requests to
15 be compensated above and beyond travel and lodging. The
16 Secretary wrote back to the Council members saying that he
17 wasn't going to authorize additional compensation and he felt
18 that Council -- the best Council participation is done in the
19 spirit of volunteerism. But at the Joint Board/Chair Council
20 meeting in May, the Council Chairs will still dissatisfied with
21 that decision and so they were going to take it upon themselves
22 to draft a letter back to the Secretary again asking for
23 compensation but I don't think anybody.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We didn't do anything after May.
26 But the issue there was different Regional Council Councils
27 throughout the state have members that work and they have to
28 take time off from work to go to these meetings. And the issue
29 was a stipend to take care of that.

30
31 MS. DETWILER: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But the Secretary basically said no,
34 and I don't know where the discussion is going to be from here
35 on. Ida.

36
37 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
38 member. Just for your information yesterday at the Seward
39 Peninsula Regional Council meeting they requested that the
40 request for compensation be resubmitted.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Ida. Maybe we can talk
43 about that a little later. You know, as you can see we have a
44 couple of members that are working and they would probably want
45 to revisit that issue, too, in our Council. Raymond's at work
46 now.

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So the last item that I have is
49 the proposed and final rule for fisheries implementation and
50 that's an agenda item on all the Regional Council agendas for

0035

1 this time around. And the purpose of that is to give you an
2 update on the status of where we are right now and also to
3 relate to you what happened to your comments when you reviewed
4 the proposed rule last spring.

5
6 I guess where we are right now, we issued a proposed
7 rule with all the proposed fisheries regulations in it last
8 December. We had a four month comment period that ended in
9 April. We asked all the Regional Councils to comment. We also
10 had 31 public meetings state wide and also got a lot of written
11 comments from people across the state. The proposed rule
12 basically had the -- the programmatic or general regulations
13 that talked about procedures and policies and that sort of
14 thing and it also had specific customary and traditional use
15 determinations and specific fishing regulations. And you were
16 asked to comment on those. And the other thing that's of
17 particular interest to this region is that that proposed rule
18 also responded to the petition that was submitted by this
19 Council several years ago that asked the Secretary to extend
20 jurisdiction off of public lands if subsistence uses weren't
21 being met on public lands. So the proposed rule also
22 responded to that petition.

23
24 The general comments that we got back a lot of them
25 dealt with the process that we used. People challenged the
26 fact that we did an environmental assessment versus
27 environmental impact statement. They challenged whether or not
28 we met various executive orders and regulatory flexibility and
29 so on. The comments talked about which waters should or
30 shouldn't be included in Federal jurisdiction. They challenged
31 the Board and Secretary's authority to extend jurisdiction off
32 of Federal public lands.

33
34 People said that we need to incorporate the most recent
35 State customary and traditional fish determinations. And they
36 also -- most of the comments -- the customary trade was the
37 issue that brought in the most comments. Comments that were
38 across the board, some people said that there should be
39 absolutely no restriction on customary trade, other people said
40 there should be absolutely no sale of fish resources at all for
41 cash. So there was -- and there were a lot of comments in
42 between. Some people said that there needs to be a cash limit,
43 \$70,000 was a number that was suggested several times.

44
45 And the other comment that people made was that Federal
46 regulations should be consistent with State regulations to the
47 extent possible to minimize confusion. And your specific
48 comments, you made only one formal recommendation and that was,
49 to eliminate the regulation in the Subpart (D) of the specific
50 fishing regulations that closes the mouth of the.....

0036

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Kelly.

2

3 MS. DETWILER:Kelly and Noatak Rivers to.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it was the Kelly and then in
6 the Noatak River.

7

8 MS. DETWILER: Okay, so that was a formal
9 recommendation. And then you had a couple of other comments
10 about specific regulations having to do with how far across the
11 width of a stream a net could go and how deep char or.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The sheefish nets.

14

15 MS. DETWILER:sheefish nets could be. And the
16 final rule that will come out won't make those changes in that
17 regulation. They want you to submit a proposal during the
18 regulatory review process, the yearly process for all of the
19 Subpart (D) regulations, all of the ones that are specific to,
20 you know, gear and seasons and things like that. So the
21 proposed rule -- or the final rule won't address those changes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So between now and when can we make
24 a proposal to change those?

25

26 MS. DETWILER: The final rule is scheduled to be
27 published and be implemented at the beginning of January. And
28 we were anticipating that the regulatory process -- we would
29 get it up and running next year so at your February or March
30 meeting is when you would do fish proposals and then the Board
31 would act on them.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: In May?

34

35 MS. DETWILER:in their winter meetings, October
36 or November, sometime around there. So that it would be
37 effective for the next fishing season. It's just opposite of
38 what you do for wildlife.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

41

42 MS. DETWILER: And then -- so the other major changes
43 are to modify the regulations to reflect current State c&t
44 determinations, reduce some of the -- or increase -- improve
45 the clarity of the regulatory language. A significant one is
46 customary trade. In the proposed rule that you saw the
47 customary trade regulation allows for customary trade, but --
48 so it's kind of a blanket allowance for it. As long as it --
49 but makes provisions so that subsistence caught fish don't
50 enter into the commercial market. We've clarified that in

0037

1 regulations so that it makes it more clear. It's not changed.
2 But given the comments that we got from a lot of people who
3 were very concerned about the impact that subsistence caught
4 fish could have if they do enter, commercial fisheries.
5 Another option is going to the Board to consider when it
6 reviews the final rule before it goes back to Washington, that
7 would make customary trade more restrictive. In other words,
8 the Board would have to approve specific customary trade uses.
9 So that's an option that will be going to the Board but the
10 regulatory language that will be going to the Board on
11 customary trade will be pretty much as you saw it last spring.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That takes into consideration the
14 sale of the egg?

15
16 MS. DETWILER: Yeah. Well, what do you mean?

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Selling the eggs, salmon eggs after
19 you get the salmon?

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh. If it's a customary trade, the
22 way that it's written now, it would be allowed. But the other
23 aspect of the comments that came in and the current thinking of
24 the Staff, that customary trade needs to be done on a regional
25 basis. So the Regional Councils would be looked to to provide
26 advice to the Board on what constitutes customary trade for
27 that area. So what's customary for this area might not be
28 appropriate for some other area. So it would depend on what
29 the Regional Council said.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any questions?

32
33 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What about the steel shot clinic,
36 anybody here to give that? Mimi Hogan, is she here?

37
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mimi has just stepped out but
39 she'll be right back.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, we'll get back to her.
42 Muskox. Donna.

43
44 MS. DETWILER: I think you have a green handout, I
45 believe, that says, summary of muskox scoping meetings. Yeah,
46 that one. Okay. We had a -- well, there's been an issue of
47 trying to decide what to do with the muskox population that
48 exists basically from Cape Krusenstern to Cape Lisburne, in the
49 Northwest Arctic area. It's primarily a coastal population and
50 we're -- the issue was brought up by the North Slope Council

0038

1 last year because part of that population got tagged in on a
2 hunt they were proposing and that kind of brought everything to
3 the limelight to try to start investigating that. Barb and
4 myself and Ken Adkisson and some of the Fish and Game Staff,
5 like Jim Dau and Susan Georgette, went up to Point Hope and
6 Kivalina in August and wanted to actually talk to those folks
7 and see if they wanted a hunt, what type of hunt, start finding
8 some information. Basically what we found out was the folks
9 really weren't that eager for a hunt right away, they're
10 interested down the road. But there's still a big concern,
11 especially in Point Hope of radioactive contamination at the
12 Cape Thompson site. Kivalina had it also, but it was mainly a
13 Point Hope thing.

14
15 We also had a meeting in Kotzebue, following up. There
16 was definitely more interest in the hunt in Kotzebue than the
17 other two villages. The bottom line was what the ultimate
18 decision after all that was to form a cooperative group using
19 the Seward Peninsula as a model. Form a cooperative muskox
20 group that incorporates the villagers, all the agencies and
21 start formulating a game plan for potential harvest in the
22 future with the goal not so much being a management plan but
23 the goal to be to formulate joint regulations that would
24 probably go to the State Game Board and the Federal Board in
25 late 1999. So that would be the ultimate goal.

26
27 Also along with that is to do some investigation into
28 this aspect of radioactive contamination, which we're starting
29 to look into that and see how we can try to resolve that issue.

30
31 So -- and then following up on that, we went to the
32 North Slope Council and Willie was at that meeting, which was a
33 great help, and we talked to the North Slope Council about that
34 because like I say the North Slope Council was who brought up
35 the issue. And the North Slope Council basically agreed to bow
36 to this Council and let them take the lead. Let this Council
37 take the lead on the issue and the North Slope Council would
38 follow. So that's great. We have their cooperation and things
39 are moving forward and I think it's real positive. So now the
40 fun begins and we're going to start trying to formulate a game
41 plan.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken, can you brief us a little bit
44 on the muskox.

45
46 MR. ADKISSON: On the Seward Peninsula?

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

49
50 MR. ADKISSON: Sure. Ken Adkisson, National Park

0039

1 Service. I just want to kind of, for informational purposes,
2 update you on what's going on with the Seward Peninsula
3 muskoxen hunt. And this is the first year that we've actually
4 run a joint hunt with State. And the way that works is the
5 State Board of Game established a Tier II State subsistence
6 hunt, and this is the first year it's been operating. The
7 Federal system has been running muskoxen hunts for the last
8 three years out there. So this year is an experiment to see if
9 we can really make that work, that joint hunt.

10
11 And we don't have all the harvest information in
12 obviously. But we know how the permit distribution went and
13 I've already passed out a handout to the Board members, to the
14 Council members here showing the breakdown of the permits by
15 Federal/State and by village. The Federal portion of the hunt
16 basically effects southwestern Unit 23 and the villages of
17 Buckland and Deering. The State portion of the hunt, of
18 course, though effects area residents on a larger basis because
19 they can apply for State Tier II permits.

20
21 Basically the hunt, as I said, it's an experimental
22 hunt and the Federal portion of the hunt was accomplished by
23 Special Action. So that Special Action expires and unless
24 action is taken it reverts back to the preexisting situation of
25 a Federal only hunt. The Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
26 Council, yesterday, did submit a proposal to basically make the
27 existing regulation that you see in your yellow book, to make
28 that permanent. That simply is to get the ball rolling, it's
29 not a final outcome. The whole cooperation thing is contingent
30 on the issue of whether or not the joint hunt works in the best
31 interest of the Federal subsistence users. If it doesn't, the
32 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council, in prior actions,
33 directed the Federal Board, basically to simply withdraw from
34 the process and revert back to the Federal hunt. So we've got
35 the proposal in so you folks don't have to do anything right
36 now.

37
38 What we'll be doing is we'll be getting with the
39 villages towards the end of the hunt cycle. Seeing how it
40 works and we'll bring information back to the two Councils so
41 that they can be prepared to make some sort of more formal
42 recommendation and act on the proposal down the road. We may
43 be also seeking to make some adjustments or fine tune the hunt
44 and we'll keep you updated on that. One of them really doesn't
45 effect Buckland and Deering, it's the 22(D) thing that has to
46 do with removing a restriction that's currently in place on
47 Federal hunters for Brevig Mission and Teller, and we may be
48 trying to remove that. But we'll see what the villages want to
49 do, that's the key thing. How the villages feel about the hunt
50 and where do they want to go. But we've got the Seward

0040

1 Peninsula proposal in to keep the ball rolling.

2

3 And as you can see there were 64 permits issued, 35 of
4 those were State permits, 29 of them were Federal permits.
5 Probably the key thing in there, all of permits went to Seward
6 Peninsula residents. None of the permits went outside the
7 region. And that was a big concern in the planning process and
8 everything.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Was that by chance?

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: No. I think you could say the State
13 Tier II permit system worked this time. Whether it will
14 continue to work -- but the way their thing -- the way the
15 State system works is that they weight heavily cost of living
16 and so forth. They're no longer able to weight residency or
17 where you live. But based on the cost of living factors and so
18 forth, those area residents scored more highly in the process
19 and wound up with the permits. So if that continues to hold
20 true we should be pretty good.

21

22 Just to give you a quick breakdown so you can see how
23 it worked in subunits. For 23 Southwest there were 10 permits.
24 Buckland and Deering had a lot of reluctance to participate in
25 the State program, and they preferred to hold most of their
26 permits back in the Federal program and so there were two State
27 permits and eight Federal. Both the State permits went to
28 Deering and the eight Federal permits were allocated according
29 to the wishes of the two villages. For 22(E), which is the
30 northern part of the Seward Peninsula, they wanted a 50/50
31 split between State and Federal programs and basically that's
32 what they got. All nine of the State permits went to the two
33 22(E) villages and the nine Federal permits were divided
34 between the two 22(E) villages. 22(D) which is the central
35 part of the Seward Peninsula was a little more problematic but
36 worked out pretty good, I think for a test case and hopefully
37 will improve in the future. There are two villages in 22(D).
38 They wound up basically with 22 of the permits or more than
39 half of the permits. The other 14 permits for 22(D) went to
40 Seward Peninsula villages, nine of those went to Nome, four of
41 them went to White Mountain and one of them to Golovin. So at
42 least on the distribution of permits it worked out pretty well
43 yet.

44

45 And from what little harvest information we have back
46 to-date, most of the village hunters who have been successful
47 have been hunting under State permits and not Federal permits.
48 And the reason for trying to work together with the State was
49 basically the fact that most of the lands adjoining the
50 villages are State or private lands and had been closed to the

0041

1 Federal hunters. And so by cooperating with the State we
2 essentially opened up more lands for the hunters to hunt on and
3 gave them access to a greater number of animals than had been
4 available hunter the Federal hunt. So it appears to be
5 working.

6
7 And as I say, you don't have to take any action at this
8 time, but we'll try to evaluate the results of the hunt and
9 come back for your next meeting and probably ask for some sort
10 of recommendation.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So that would be for Buckland and
13 Deering?

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Basically Buckland and Deering, yeah.
16 But for this -- for the Federal program right.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. ADKISSON: The State program, of course, would be
21 open, for example, people from Kotzebue could apply for State
22 Tier II permits. I don't know if any did, Lee Anne might have
23 a better idea on that, I don't have a breakdown on that. But I
24 do know the only two State permits available did go to Deering.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Any questions? Thank
27 you Ken. Have we gone through the Fish and Wildlife Service
28 now, Subsistence Management? Okay.

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mimi's here now.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: When we convene back -- oh, I'm
33 sorry, Mimi. Steel shots.

34
35 MS. HOGAN: I'm Mimi Hogan and I'm the migratory birds
36 subsistence coordinator for Fish and Wildlife. And I wasn't
37 really prepared to discuss steel shot. I came to town to do a
38 public meeting last night for the Migratory Bird Treaty
39 Amendments and so I thought I'd give you an update on what's
40 happening with the Migratory Bird Treaty. And as you know, the
41 Migratory Bird Treaty that was amended in 1997, we can now
42 allow spring hunting. The treaty with Canada prohibited
43 hunting between March and September. But now with this
44 amendment we can open the season for spring subsistence
45 harvest.

46
47 The treaty language which I put copies in the back on
48 the back desk mandates that subsistence users will have an
49 effective voice in management of spring harvest of migratory
50 birds and one of the ways will be on management bodies. So the

0042

1 treaty language mandates that we're going to have management
2 bodies. So we have two phases of work ahead of us. The first
3 one will be to setup these management -- it could be a
4 management body or management bodies for Alaska. So the first
5 task is to setup management bodies and then these bodies will
6 actually will set the regulations. So at this point we're not
7 talking about what rules might work for spring hunting, we're
8 only talking about setting up management bodies. And the
9 management bodies will be made up of equal representation by
10 Alaska Native, the Federal government and the State government.
11 And so these bodies, this cooperative management of these three
12 entities then will make recommendations regarding a wide
13 variety of issues, not just what rules might work. But they'll
14 have recommendations on enforcement, on education, research,
15 traditional knowledge and habitat protection. These
16 recommendations, once the bodies meet and make these
17 recommendations, then the recommendations go to two places,
18 they'll go to the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations
19 committee and that committee is the one that sets all the
20 regulations for migratory birds within the United States. All
21 the sport regulations that currently exist are made by that
22 committee. The recommendations will also go to the Fly-Away
23 Councils. And the Fly-Away Councils are States that are
24 grouped along Fly-Away lines where the birds go, the different
25 states that work with the same populations of birds meet twice
26 a year to discuss those populations and then they make
27 management. So our management bodies are going to work with
28 the people in the Lower 48 because we're all talking about the
29 same birds. And this was a really important part of the
30 negotiations of these amendments, was that everyone was going
31 to work together.

32
33 And I think there are a few things that are really
34 important to point out at this time, is that migratory bird
35 management is not a not part of ANILCA and won't be a part of
36 the Resource Advisory Councils. Because the Fish and Wildlife
37 Service is the management authority for migratory birds so the
38 recommendations would not go to a Federal Subsistence Board.
39 They're going to go directly to Fish and Wildlife Service.
40 Also we're not talking about regulations that would be just on
41 Federal lands. These areas would -- for subsistence hunting
42 would be opened more widely than that.

43
44 Where we are in the process right now is we're having
45 eight public meetings around the state to discuss, again, at
46 this point only management bodies. How to set them up. How
47 people want to set them up. And then hopefully a year from now
48 when we have that process complete, we will call for
49 recommendations on who should serve on these boards. Get the
50 management bodies in place and then they will meet and start a

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1 rulemaking process.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How many?

4
5 MS. HOGAN: That's exactly the first question we asked
6 at the meetings that we're having, is how many do people want?
7 Will regional work? Can you put regional bodies together, four
8 or five regions? Do you want one for the state? That's the
9 exact purpose of the meetings at this point.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Quotas?

12
13 MS. HOGAN: That's up to the management bodies. That's
14 the sort of thing they'll discuss. Do you want community
15 quotas? We envision that these rules are going to be as
16 creative as the people that are sitting down there making them
17 work.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No quotas now, just let us keep
20 shooting them.

21
22 MS. HOGAN: Well, that's essentially what exists now
23 for the Yukon-Delta goose management plan and the closed season
24 policy. And where you focus on the populations that are in
25 trouble. And the feeling being if it's not fixed -- I mean if
26 it's not broken, don't fix it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If you're talking about one, you
29 know, some populations, say for instance the brandts. Quotas,
30 since the population is low?

31
32 MS. HOGAN: Well, in a case like brandt, you would have
33 your management body and not unlike this group works, you'd
34 have biologists present the information to the Board, they'd
35 talk about it, do we need quotas. You'd look at what's
36 happening in California, in Cold Bay, on the North Slope and
37 then make your recommendation.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any questions? Bert.

40
41 MR. GRIEST: On your Fly-Away Council, how do we
42 interface with Canada?

43
44 MS. HOGAN: Canada has representatives that come to the
45 different Fly-Away Council meetings so that's a really good
46 place where everyone interfaces and it would be probably at
47 that point.

48
49 MR. GRIEST: Are we also involving any other country,
50 Mexico?

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1 MS. HOGAN: Mexico, we work with Mexico on the brandt.
2 But there's no formal way right now that Mexican government or
3 biologists are working with the Fly-Aways.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You know, like one of our elders
6 said a long time ago, I don't know why you guys are making a
7 big fuss over it, these are our birds, they were born and
8 raised up here. Thank you.

9
10 Okay, are we done with Fish and Wildlife then? Selawik
11 Refuge. Why don't we wait for Raymond to talk about the moose,
12 uh?

13
14 MR. GRIEST: Yes, let's do that.

15
16 MS. KERR: Okay. My name is Mahona. I'm the refuge
17 manager for Selawik Refuge. My English name is Leslie Kerr.
18 And the first thing I would like to do today is introduce to
19 you Patrick McDonald. Pat is our new administrative
20 technician. He comes to us from the National Guard. So if you
21 call the Fish and Wildlife office here in Kotzebue and you hear
22 McDonald speaking, this is who it is. And as you all know,
23 since we have a very small staff sometimes he's the only person
24 in the office. So you will probably spend quite a bit of time
25 talking to him trying to get messages to various folks. So we
26 welcome Pat. We're really glad, finally, to have somebody in
27 this position. It's been vacant for more or less two years.
28 And I personally am thrilled. I told him when he came that I
29 wanted him to be a Radar O'Reilly for me. I had first asked
30 him if he watched the television series MASH, and of course he
31 had, and so I said, that's your job. I want a Radar. So we
32 welcome Pat and if you have no questions or nothing that you
33 want to say to him, I'd like to send him back so he can answer
34 our phone.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Good to meet you Radar.

37
38 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: You're going to be stuck with that
39 one.

40
41 MS. KERR: Thanks for coming Pat. The other item that
42 I was asked to speak about today is the Western Arctic Caribou
43 Herd, ongoing discussions about some sort of management
44 partnership. To give you an update on the series of events.
45 There was a meeting scheduled for August 12th and 13th, which
46 was canceled in the aftermath of all of the discussion of sheep
47 harvest. The meeting was tentatively rescheduled for October
48 1st and 2nd, it has been postponed. There was a small group
49 meeting here in Kotzebue this past Tuesday. The meeting was
50 attended by Dave Spirites, the superintendent of the Western

0045

1 Alaska Park Lands, Lois Dalle-Molle, also from the Park Service
2 John Trent who is the lead for the State of Alaska on this
3 issue, Pete Schaefer who is a member of our working group as
4 well as Inig Shite who has replaced Art Ivanof representing
5 Maniilaq on the working group and myself. Basically the
6 discussion was how do we focus our efforts, where do we go from
7 here? How do we best use our time so that we actually can make
8 some progress?

9
10 I think the intention after that discussion is to take
11 a bit of a detour so that the group can actually accomplish
12 something. I think it's an anecdote for the frustration that
13 many people feel that there have been discussions ongoing for
14 three years and we have really not, in some people's mind, a
15 lot to show for it. There is no intention to discard the
16 progress that has been made to date. It's just an attempt to
17 improve the focus and make some incremental progress. You
18 might characterize it as a decision to stop talking about
19 increasing local participation in decisions about management of
20 the herd and just go ahead and do it.

21
22 There are two types of projects that are of immediate
23 interest to this smaller group. One of them is harvest
24 assessment. There is very poor information on the actual
25 subsistence need demand. How many animals are actually
26 harvested, how many people -- how many caribou do people need?
27 There's very poor information about that at this point. John
28 Trent has said that the State of Alaska has in its budget this
29 year \$50,000 to spend on harvest assessment surveys in four
30 communities. Once that protocol is developed for harvest
31 assessment, the other partners in this process could use it.
32 For example, the Park Service could do something similar with
33 villages within their Park lands and the Selawik Refuge could
34 do something similar for the village of Selawik. The intention
35 is to model this after the waterfall harvest assessment work
36 that's currently being done in a partnership through the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service and the
38 Maniilaq Association.

39
40 A second topic that's of interest is to look at what
41 you might call harvest opportunity, which is really a more
42 positive way of framing the discussion that might also be
43 characterized as a discussion of user conflict and/or user
44 placement. I understand that Jim Dau has some money in his
45 budget this year to start addressing this issue, in general, in
46 this region, and certainly it's an issue that has hit the
47 headlines of late. This small group is going to meet again on
48 November 3rd here in Kotzebue. The intention is that we will
49 have done some homework by that time and that when we have some
50 proposals that we can put forward to the larger Western Arctic

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1 Caribou Herd working group, that we would schedule another
2 meeting of the full body.

3
4 There are some additional topics that we mentioned in
5 our small group discussion that might be of interest, but we've
6 chose these first two as the ones to focus on immediately.
7 Some of the other topics that came up were, there has been a
8 lot of concern about disease in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
9 and there's an interest in doing some work on perhaps
10 developing something that might be called a disease reporting
11 system. And of course, the people who are in the field who are
12 the actual users are in the best position to know how many
13 animals they see have swollen joints and all of the things that
14 suggest that an animal is diseased.

15
16 Another thing that we talked about is this idea of
17 improving coordination between State and Federal systems. We
18 have this dual management system. It's obviously caused some
19 hard feelings of late. And there were some discussions about
20 joint meetings of the Regional Advisory Committee with the
21 State Advisory Committees to discuss the Western Arctic Caribou
22 Herd. Another variant on that idea might be to simply bring in
23 the Chairs of the State Subsistence Advisory Councils to meet
24 with the Regional Advisory Council. And again, that's
25 something that we have the authority to do right now. There
26 are some problems with coordination because of the different
27 time frames within which proposals are considered by the
28 Federal and State Boards, but really there's no obstacle to
29 doing that. It's simply a matter of choosing to do it and
30 saying here's a problem, let's fix it.

31
32 I would certainly invite suggestions from this body and
33 members of the audience on any and all of the ideas that this
34 smaller group discussed, whether they relate to harvest
35 assessment, harvest opportunity, disease reporting, joint
36 meetings or any other aspect, any other way that you think
37 might be an idea to pursue to improve local participation and
38 management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: An issue is user conflict. Over the
41 years we've had people from, particularly here in Kotzebue, I
42 know, that sometimes the herd as it starts to migrate gets
43 altered because of sport hunters in the mountains. That has an
44 effect on the migration of the herd through Kotzebue or through
45 Kiana or through Noorvik. If there's some hunters up here in
46 the mountain and it gets altered, people that live out in camps
47 here in Kobuk Lake, they don't see them. So that issue's got
48 to be talked about in the Park lands. And that's -- it's not
49 just a one time deal, it's been going on and on and on.

50

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1 So we need to keep that issue in mind when we talk
2 about the herd. Any other comments?

3
4 MR. GRIEST: I kind of herd that in Selawik and the
5 Upper Kobuk as well as Noatak, and I think that one of the
6 tools that we can have or you can look at is dates -- dates of
7 allowable hunts. Primarily, the crux of the whole thing is the
8 first caribou that come, leave imprints on the tundra and the
9 rest of the caribou herd basically follows the first bunch that
10 goes through, and that's kind of the issue of the whole thing,
11 I think.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That is the issue. The timing of
14 allowing the sport hunters to get into the mountains, I think
15 is a key issue with the migration and the migration pattern.

16
17 Any questions of Leslie? You got anything else Les?

18
19 MS. KERR: We wanted to give a report on our sport
20 hunter monitoring and Gene -- that is part of our discussion
21 about moose.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It would be moose and caribou?

24
25 MS. KERR: Yeah. So we'll probably wait to do that
26 until after lunch.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

29
30 MS. KERR: Is that the idea?

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Thank you.

33
34 MS. KERR: Okay, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: BLM. We'll take BLM and then break
37 for lunch. By golly you can get this information can't you?
38 It's been what I've been asking for.

39
40 MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers with the Bureau of Land
41 Management in Kotzebue. And I was going to try to keep this
42 short and you have a handout that you can examine at your
43 leisure, and please feel free to ask any questions since I know
44 there is ongoing discussion about what's going on in the
45 Squirrel, especially during the fall.

46
47 The Bureau of Land Management has about 55 million
48 lands in northern Alaska that are managed by the Northern field
49 office in Fairbanks and in Kotzebue and in Nome. And in the
50 Squirrel River we have approximately a million acres and so

0048

1 that's a lot of territory. And we have three rangers who are
2 assigned to the Fairbanks office. And so the Squirrel River
3 and the Tag River, the closest lands to Kotzebue, share one of
4 those rangers with several other areas. So in terms of
5 monitoring, if I can get the time of the ranger, a ranger will
6 come out and spend a few days in the Squirrel and in the Tag
7 and I try to make some trips into the Squirrel mainly. Not so
8 much the Tag. But right now, Leslie Kerr and I have set up for
9 next year, we're going to float the Tag the first week in
10 September and just talking to hunters and camps along the way
11 and kind of look first hand for ourselves on the ground because
12 I have flown the Tag before but I haven't actually been on the
13 ground.

14
15 I try to get to the Squirrel a couple of times a year,
16 to both fly over and then land where we can, usually with a
17 Super Cub and talk directly with the special recreation permit
18 holders. Those would be the guide, outfitters and their
19 clients and assistant guides. And then also just do some
20 flying to make counts of how many camps we see and sort of the
21 general level of activity. So let's see here, one last thing I
22 wanted to say just before -- just kind of looking at what we
23 have here is that ATVs, four-wheelers, that kind of thing are
24 legal on BLM Federal public lands. So they haven't been used
25 much in the Squirrel in the past and that's probably good. I
26 mean it's not probably good, it is good, period. And we now
27 have two guides who do have four-wheelers in the Squirrel. And
28 so I was not able to talk with one of them this year because he
29 wasn't in camp when I landed at his camp, but I've been able to
30 talk to the other one and just try to encourage them to be
31 responsible with the use, and maintain travel to the gravel
32 corridors. And let them know that this meeting was happening
33 and we'd be talking about it. And that local people are very
34 aware of what goes on in the Squirrel and that it's kind of a
35 precedent setting thing to be in there with ATVs and it's not
36 widely embraced as a good idea by local people simply because
37 of the increased efficiency to get game. So we'll see how that
38 goes. We're definitely -- the idea with allowing ATVs on
39 public lands is that it's okay, but a network of trails is not
40 supposed to develop and so that's our -- what we have to watch
41 out for. And if there's any creative solutions that BLM can
42 come up with in the Squirrel for restricting ATV use, we're
43 certainly going to be looking at that just to try to not get
44 ourselves overwhelmed with that particular problem because
45 there is a lot of people use in there already.

46
47 So going to what I've given you, there are basically
48 three sets of items. There are two tables summarizing activity
49 in there for the last five years, '94 to '98. And then you
50 have a copy of a letter that I wrote to Walter in response to

0049

1 some of this questions about what was going on in the Squirrel
2 this year and also the same letter went out to Vera Morris as a
3 Kiana representative and also to Bobby Wells, since all three
4 of those are -- since Vera and Bobby were involved with the
5 Kiana working group that was meeting on the Squirrel River with
6 respect to the wild and scenic proposal. And I knew Bert had
7 been on that particular working group and I knew I would see
8 him today, so that's why you didn't get a letter yourself, just
9 because I thought I could hand it to you here.

10
11 So that goes into a little bit of information that
12 maybe isn't widely known and maybe people are interested in,
13 who are the special recreation permit holders in the Squirrel
14 authorized by BLM. So there they are and their base camp
15 locations are noted. And just to make the differentiation
16 between a special recreation permit holder, is a licensed by
17 the State guide/outfitter who is authorized to have a long-term
18 camp in the Squirrel River during hunting season. And so that
19 could be spring bear hunts or it could be fall for moose,
20 caribou and bear. And then on the other hand BLM does not have
21 any control in terms of issuing a permit or keeping too much
22 track of transporters. They're pretty much on their own and
23 come and go. So that is a nation wide regulation that has been
24 in effect for some time. And that kind of just points out the
25 difference between say like the Fish and Wildlife Service who
26 do require that transporters have a permit and it's handy
27 because it gives them a little bit better knowledge over who is
28 there and what they're doing and what the number are. But I'm
29 just working within the system that I find myself in. And the
30 third thing that you have there is a two-page list of the
31 special -- the stipulations, the requirements that we expect
32 the special recreation permit holder to abide by. So I just
33 thought people might be interested in reading those.

34
35 The numbers I've collected over the years and it's not
36 a real systematic collection. I haven't sent out survey forms.
37 We do require our special recreation permit holders to give us
38 an annual report every year and sometimes they do and sometimes
39 they don't and sometimes we're not real good at following up.
40 So there's some holes in the data there. But I make phone
41 calls, people stop by my office, we send them letters in
42 writing asking for their reports. So the numbers are a good
43 index to what's been going on out there, but I just wanted to
44 make the point that they're not precise, but they're the best
45 I've been able to do over the years. And you can see on the
46 first set of summary figures that the number of special
47 recreation permit holders has been fairly steady. A little bit
48 of a jump in '98. And the ones that are actually active,
49 usually not everybody who's got a permit chooses to hunt in the
50 Squirrel. So that can vary from year-to-year. And the number

0050

1 of transporters has been steady. Now, the actual players has
2 shifted. So the level of activity in terms of the number of
3 transporters and the number of special recreation permit
4 holders has remained approximately the same, not a whole lot of
5 change. But different people have been shuffling in and out of
6 those roles.

7
8 And then just in terms of the numbers, the second set
9 of tables, you can see that in '94 and '95 the total number of
10 hunters in August and September was pretty darn high. I mean
11 the place was saturated and it's probably in light of that,
12 people kind of disbursed a little bit elsewhere in '96 through
13 '98. And I didn't realize until I put this together that the
14 level of activity by BLM special recreation permit holders has
15 been going up a little bit and the transporters has been going
16 down just a tad. You can see that the people who are not
17 hunting but who are floating and hiking and camping and taking
18 pictures and stuff, that's a fairly small percent of the
19 recreation use and it's also spread out over June through
20 September and not concentrated in the last two months or so.

21
22 Oh, and one other thing, in the surveys that I do, I
23 have a general idea of the local subsistence use and maybe some
24 families that I know that go in there and trapping that takes
25 place in the winter, people going up there in the summer to
26 camp and fish. But those numbers are not included in these
27 tables. So these are commercial and sport hunters and
28 recreation people that are brought in by transporters. And a
29 few of the recreation people are -- well, I'll leave it there.

30
31 So I should probably stop because I said I was going to
32 be short and this hasn't been short. But if anybody's got any
33 questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Other recreation users,
36 they're allowed to hunt too?

37
38 MS. MEYERS: What I tried to do -- they are allowed to
39 hunt, yes. But for the sake of this table, I tried to split
40 out, you know, those who are hunting and those who are not
41 hunting. So you know, when I would talk to them or when the
42 transporter would say, yes, I dropped off this party of two
43 floaters and they weren't hunting, they were just floating and
44 fishing, say. So does that answer your question? But if
45 someone is going in there, of course, they have that
46 opportunity, they may choose to hunt if they want.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And then they provide you with a
49 harvest report?

50

0051

1 MS. MEYERS: No. No. One thing -- and it's an avenue
2 that I haven't followed in the past but it would be good for me
3 to to do that in the present and the future, would be, asking
4 the transporters that I usually contact on the phone or go over
5 to their office and ask them for some sort of a written report
6 on the numbers of people that they've taken in is to just ask
7 for a Xerox copy of their transporter report to the State,
8 which is something that they're legally bound to do every year.
9 And then that gives you information on how many people, what
10 days they were there, how many animals they took, you know,
11 that type of thing. So I'm going to start asking for that in
12 the future.

13
14 One thing these tables don't address is number of
15 animals taken, and I knew that at this particular meeting, Lee
16 Anne would be talking about numbers of moose taken out of the
17 Squirrel and that Gene had figures on moose in the Tag and that
18 Brad probably had some figures as well on moose. So I haven't
19 -- I've not touched that issue. Because when I've been
20 gathering information I haven't been focusing on numbers of
21 animals taken, I've been more focusing on who's there and what
22 are they doing and for how long.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any questions? Bert.

25
26 MR. GRIEST: I guess the most obvious one is what
27 impact are these numbers having on the moose population?

28
29 MS. MEYERS: Well, hopefully we'll find out this fall.
30 We've got a State -- a joint moose census slated between the
31 State and BLM, and so hopefully we'll have a real solid answer
32 to that. The last time the census was done in '92, they came
33 up with a figure of about .95 moose per acre, or approximately
34 one moose per acre. And for the 1,440 square miles that they
35 surveyed, they saw -- their estimate was -- it was 1,000 -- I
36 know the upper limit was 1,700 moose and the lower limit was
37 approximately 1,050 moose and that was in the Squirrel. Okay,
38 '92, yeah, there we go, okay I was close, 1,049 - 1,696. So
39 that was the range given, you know, the parameters of the
40 survey. So that included the Squirrel River Drainage, the
41 Kiana Hills and then a small area down around Kiana along the
42 Kobuk River. So it took in a little bit more than, you know,
43 just the flat lands in the Squirrel and the uplands going up
44 into the North Fork and Omar and such.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, I think we'll get into it with
47 Lee Anne on the harvest reports. I think after 1:00 we'll get
48 into it.

49
50 MR. GRIEST: Okay.

0052

1 MS. MEYERS: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody got any other questions?
4 Okay, thank you Randy. At this point we'll break for lunch
5 until 1:00. And when Raymond gets here we'll get into the
6 action items. And also keep in mind that I want to bring up
7 the user conflict issue this afternoon. We'll see you at 1:00.

8

9 (Off record)

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm going to call this meeting back
13 to order. For the record, Raymond Stoney is here so we now
14 have a quorum established to conduct business. I went over
15 briefly with him while we were waiting to get started on some
16 of the things that we discussed this morning. So if he has any
17 questions, I -- at any time he can interrupt me or anybody that
18 has any reports that were distributed to us can give him a
19 copy. What we'll do is get back to Item 4, an action item,
20 which is to review and adopt the agenda. But before we get
21 started here, I want everybody to know I mean business this
22 afternoon.

23

24 Are there any other items that anybody wishes to add to
25 the agenda? The only other thing that I want to add somewhere
26 is the user conflict issue. I know we'll discuss it a little
27 bit when we get into the Park Service segment of agency reports
28 and I held off on that, I wanted Raymond to be here when we
29 discussed that.

30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. Maybe just
32 for the record we'll roll call over.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So we can confirm your quorum.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All right. Moving back a step,
39 Barb, would you call roll call.

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Willie Goodwin.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Stoney.

46

47 MR. STONEY: Here.

48

49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Ricky. Percy. Rosie Ward.

50

0053

1 MS. WARD: Here.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Walter. Bert Griest.

4

5 MR. GRIEST: Here.

6

7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Quorum is established. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. So the user conflict
10 issue, I think we can either take it as an agenda item or we
11 can discuss it during the Park Service agency report. What's
12 the wish.

13

14 MR. GRIEST: Separate.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: As a separate, okay. So it would be
17 under number 10, Item B -- B(1).

18

19 MR. STONEY: Ten?

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, Item 10 on the agenda, and
22 B(1) would be the user conflict.

23

24 MR. GRIEST: Make sure it's on the agenda so we can
25 talk about it during Federal.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right, okay. The other issue I want
28 to talk about this afternoon, and I'm not sure how I should
29 handle this, I'm going to seek direction from the Fish and
30 Wildlife Service Subsistence Management office, is the issue of
31 one of our Council members being absent from meetings and
32 abstaining from action issues of subsistence. Well, let's just
33 take it up as an agenda item, it would B(2), Council member
34 attendance.

35

36 Any other amendments?

37

38 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

41

42 MR. GRIEST: I move that we adopt the agenda as
43 presented with addition, the B(1), the user conflict issue and
44 Council member attendance.

45

46 MS. WARD: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion. If not all those
49 in favor signify by saying aye.

50

0054
1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. You have the minutes of
8 February 1998 in your packet. Are there any corrections anyone
9 wishes to make?
10
11 MR. GRIEST: No.
12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If there are no corrections or any
14 discussion on the motion, I'll entertain the motion to approve
15 as presented.
16
17 MR. GRIEST: So moved, Mr. Chairman.
18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?
20
21 MR. STONEY: Second.
22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussions or changes anyone
24 wishes to make? If there's no discussion or any changes that
25 anyone wishes to make, all those in favor signify by saying
26 aye.
27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Item 6 is the election of officers.
36 What's the wish of the Council?
37
38 MR. GRIEST: Table until next meeting.
39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Table until next meeting. Any
41 objections? Hearing none we'll do it when we get more members
42 present and hold the officers as is right now.
43
44 MR. STONEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, that will be in next
45 February?
46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: When's the meeting next, in
48 February?
49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: February, yes.

0055

1 MR. STONEY: And then we'll just keep the same?

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Keep the same as present.

4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: February or March.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Keep the same officers right now
8 until February?

9
10 MR. GRIEST: Yeah.

11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. And we'll keep these same
15 officers until then.

16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Was that a motion to table, Bert?

20
21 MR. GRIEST: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Was there a second -- who seconded
24 that?

25
26 MR. STONEY: I did.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, Raymond did, okay. Then there's
29 no debate on it so any all those in favor signify by saying
30 aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any opposed.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Item 7, we talked about it briefly,
39 about anybody having any comments with the Federal Subsistence
40 management program. I'll reopen that if anybody wants to make
41 any comments with what we've done or what we've -- the public
42 wishes us to do. Is not, Raymond we talked briefly on the
43 village concerns, are there any concerns from your community
44 that you wish to bring before us?

45
46 MR. STONEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The only comment I got
47 now -- I did call a number of agencies, the Park and the BLM
48 and I got a number of reports of Fish and Wildlife management
49 in Upper Kobuk for -- I didn't see it at all, but apparently
50 the reporting that there was too much wanton waste up around

0056

1 Paw River and below Paw River (ph). It's not from local
2 people, it's just from the people that are rafting. In fact, I
3 just got a call again this morning that two more fresh caribou
4 just left in the river with their antlers off. So otherwise my
5 concern is that the Federal management, I think they should be
6 quite a bit more active, not just leaving it right now. They
7 should have been up there right now.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's the protection officers for
10 Parks, Gates of the Arctic. And we have a representative back
11 here that's in the wrong place at the wrong time at this
12 present time.

13
14 MR. MOW: Well, I guess I could address that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: State your name for the record.

17
18 MR. MOW: My name's Jeff Mow. I'm Chief operations for
19 Gates of the Arctic. Yeah, in response to some of the issues
20 going on around the Paw River, I can say that it's actually
21 outside of the Gates of the Arctic Preserve. And actually we
22 don't have -- we have neither the authority nor the
23 jurisdiction to enforce any Fish and Game laws outside Park
24 Service lands. And I believe the area in the Paw, it's my
25 understanding that it's actually State lands.

26
27 MS. MEYERS: And there is some BLM lands around the Paw
28 as well.

29
30 MR. MOW: And BLM lands, right so that's up around the
31 Paw.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So maybe you can tell me why you
34 were involved in the arrest of the five guys if you had no
35 jurisdiction?

36
37 MR. MOW: Well, in that particular instance, there was
38 an incident that took place just before Labor Day. It was --
39 the report came to us that there were some hunters on the river
40 that were being held at gun point and threatened and we simply
41 relayed that information to the State Troopers because actually
42 due to the jurisdiction that we have, the Gates of Arctic, it's
43 considered proprietary jurisdiction and the State actually has
44 primary responsibility for criminal activity like that -- such
45 as that.

46
47 MR. STONEY: Yes.

48
49 MR. MOW: So we simply relayed this to the State
50 Troopers. They dispatched a trooper who then -- because we had

0057

1 rangers on-scene and actually that's how the report actually
2 initially got out, they requested our assistance and so we
3 simply assisted. But the Park Service was not involved in the
4 investigation nor any of the subsequent events. I don't even
5 know the details of the charges that resulted from it. I was
6 directed that, you know, you have to go in person to the local
7 courthouse to find those out. So, yeah, that's all I can
8 report on that at this point. But we do know that the charges
9 are for assault and robbery. But as to how many or what degree
10 I don't know.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is it going to be in State or
13 Federal Court?

14
15 MR. MOW: It's going to be in the State court here in
16 Kotzebue, I believe.

17
18 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here in Kotzebue and the guys were
21 taken to Fairbanks?

22
23 MR. MOW: The trooper, when he made the arrest, yes,
24 took them initially to Fairbanks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are they here then?

27
28 MR. MOW: I don't know. I don't know where they are
29 right now. I think the -- I was told Grand Jury was happening
30 last week so that's all I know.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You know as much as then, uh?

33
34 MR. MOW: Yeah, I don't -- you know, we're not -- we
35 don't have responsibility for the disposition of this case. So
36 it falls to the State troopers and local district attorney.

37
38 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, there was a good comment
39 last night from the Fish -- Kobuk, actually it's not those
40 rafters responsibility or fault, but right now what's
41 happening, I talked to a few people, local people from Kobuk,
42 you go up hunting and then you run into these rafts, when
43 you're just within 10 feet, they look, they're kind of ready to
44 shoot, these guys in the rafts; because they were that -- they
45 were scared. And these guys, local hunters, they're getting
46 scared now because once you drive close they load their guns
47 ready to pull the triggers on you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What the rafters?

50

0058

1 MR. STONEY: Yeah. So that's happening right now.
2 Otherwise they're well shook up. I could see -- I had officers
3 up there but they were not involved in this one, but they were
4 within one mile from you guys somewhere.
5

6 MR. MOW: Yeah. We actually had a -- we had rangers on
7 the Park Service portion of the Upper Kobuk which is just above
8 the Selby River, onward and upward to Beaver Creek and the
9 Reed. And from August 25th, and then we just pulled it off
10 yesterday, we had a continuous presence on the river. We
11 patrol, we check all the hunters for licenses and for the
12 presence of meat and that they were taking, you know, what they
13 needed to out of the field. And as far as we know, none of the
14 wanton waste issues were an issue in the Gates of the Arctic
15 Preserve this year. I mean we took it -- I mean we have been
16 taking this issue fairly seriously and we've put a lot of
17 effort into it to make sure it's not happening out there. I've
18 spoken with Raymond a little bit about some opportunities for
19 the future. But I think that's something that we can discuss.
20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any questions for Jeff?
22 Thank you. In fact, I'm kind of disappointed, you know, I
23 thought we'd have more of a report on this.
24

25 MS. MOW: Yeah. And since it's pending -- criminal
26 case pending, I don't think the State will share a whole lot of
27 detail on this.
28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.
30

31 MR. STONEY: It'd be interesting to see those reports,
32 you know, what the troopers -- you know, see actually how it
33 happened. But they did fire weapons on aircrafts.
34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Fred says speak up next time,
36 Raymond. You got any other village concerns that you want to
37 report?
38

39 MR. STONEY: No, not on this but I got one on BLM.
40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Thank you. Any others that
42 we might have missed? Okay. Let's get down to number 9, the
43 old business. We did talk about the sheep and we're proposing
44 to do. The moose. The moose is something that I started
45 checking into, probably a couple of months ago, you know, right
46 after the sheep thing happened, I started asking for harvest
47 reports and I was surprised to find that the Federal biologists
48 were having the difficulty in getting harvest data from the
49 Department of Fish and Game of Alaska. So I went to the
50 Department of Fish and Game and they gave me some data as a

0059

1 resident. Then I specifically asked BLM if they had anything
2 on the Squirrel River area. I'm glad you got something now
3 Randy, she didn't a month ago, not even how many people were
4 being dropped off. How many hunters we had up there. Which is
5 important in managing the moose for subsistence. Now, what
6 also led to this was -- let's see here, when I got this, this
7 yellow handout, is the resolution from Noorvik IRA asking this
8 body to recommend to the Fish and Wildlife Service an emergency
9 closure for commercial moose harvest in Unit 23 until harvest
10 data and survey populations of the moose are done.

11
12 We need to make sure that there's some kind of
13 reporting requirement. I guess it's getting to a point where
14 the one that -- the guy that signed that thing, Hiram Walker,
15 who's the chairman of the Noorvik IRA, he told me he went up
16 with two other boats, three boats total went up the Squirrel
17 River and every place you can see where a plane can land with a
18 tent and they didn't get any moose. They took a long trip up
19 the river for nothing and come back. So it's an issue, I think
20 that needs to be addressed through this body to the Federal
21 Subsistence office. We either got to come up with some kind of
22 a regulation that can help us in limiting the number of people
23 that can be dropped off or more stringent requirements for
24 these people if it's going to be allowed to give the data to
25 the various Federal agencies directly that issue the permits.
26 True that all they need is a hunting license from the State
27 Department of Fish and Game, but they also need a permit from
28 the managing Federal agency. So we need to make sure that
29 there's some kind of requirement that the people that do get
30 dropped off and hunt, if they harvest anything, to make sure
31 it's reported so that we can see what's being done with the
32 resources that our people use for subsistence out there.

33
34 So at this point, saying that let's get right into the
35 moose discussion with the biologists first and then I'll hear
36 from the public. Or do you want to hear from the public first?
37 Let's hear from the local boys first. Anyone wish to address
38 the Council, come up and state your name and where you're from.

39
40 MR. WALKER: My name is John Walker. I'm a resident of
41 Kotzebue here. My occupation is also guide. But I was having
42 trouble finding a moose for subsistence. And I guess what I've
43 witnessed in the moose populations is I used to be a charter
44 pilot and some of the charters back in the late '70s or early
45 '80s was with the Department of Fish and Game doing moose
46 surveys. And when I compare those numbers with what we saw,
47 what I could remember, there was geez probably five to 10 times
48 more moose then than there are now. So I've witnessed a
49 drastic reduction in them. So what I'd recommend is some kind
50 of a closure except for rural residents of Unit 23 until those

0060

1 moose populations can be rebuilt back to what they were in the
2 late '70s and early '80s.

3
4 Do you have any questions?

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Predation is another issue that if
7 you have any personal knowledge of of what you see out there
8 and what we could do?

9
10 MR. WALKER: Yeah, well, I think there's some wolf
11 predation on them and bears in the spring time especially. But
12 that's even more of a reason not to let too much of the harvest
13 go because when those wolves and bears are taking those moose
14 calves, there's not a whole bunch we can do about it
15 immediately. You know, so what we'll probably see in the
16 future is the a more reduced population, more reduced than what
17 it is right now.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any other questions?
20 Go ahead, Bert.

21
22 MR. GRIEST: When you're talking about generally the
23 moose population going down, is there any specific area that
24 you're talking about or is it regionalized?

25
26 MR. WALKER: Yeah, the one I noticed the most would be
27 the Squirrel River, the Eli River, Aggie River, and the Upper
28 Noatak. And the Upper Noatak it seems like where there was big
29 bunches of moose there's now only one or two there. And I know
30 over in the Tag there's lots of moose left but I think in order
31 to rebuild the populations in the area where it's low, I think
32 those places like the Tag need to be allowed to move and
33 migrate out of there into the areas where populations are real
34 low.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

37
38 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker, when -- you
39 said you were flying for Fish and Game before, it doesn't have
40 nothing to do with moose migration before, right, what time
41 they go south, north, east, west?

42
43 MR. WALKER: Yeah. I don't believe they migrate too
44 far but we counted them in the winter time, in February or
45 March.

46
47 MR. STONEY: Yes.

48
49 MR. WALKER: And where they were all bunched up -- I
50 remember one particular spot on Timber Creek in the Squirrel

0061

1 River Valley where the old burn is.

2

3 MR. STONEY: Yes.

4

5 MR. WALKER: And one area, I would say it's probably 10
6 to 12 miles long. I think we counted nearly 100 moose there.
7 And now in the winter time if there's five to 10 there, that
8 may be the normal amount of what there is now left.

9

10 MR. STONEY: So really the moose is decreasing?

11

12 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

13

14 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Thank you, Johnny.

17

18 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Johnny.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anyone else.

21

22 MR. E. ARMSTRONG: My name is Elmer Armstrong. I have
23 a camp up here about 20 miles from here in Kobuk River. And I
24 think I am in support of this closure myself because I haven't
25 seen any moose that I could get this year. I've spent maybe
26 five, six cubs already looking for a moose in the rivers in
27 Kobuk Flats. There's a lot of signs of cow moose without
28 calves. I think this is because of the rivers being high. The
29 bears are in Kobuk Flats. They went into six or seven cabins
30 up there and really ruined property and even endangering people
31 that live in these camps, you know. But to be honest, I think
32 the moose population really went down, especially this time of
33 the year when we're looking for moose to subsist. There's more
34 cows without calves at this time. I don't know why this is
35 happening. I haven't seen a bull moose this whole season yet
36 and it's getting pretty late and the chances are getting pretty
37 slim of getting a bull moose that we're allowed to get. I have
38 a permit for one bull moose which I probably won't use. So the
39 numbers are really declining.

40

41 I could see, too, even in the winter time, you know,
42 they used to be right next door to my house in that willowy
43 area, Nelson, but this is declining also. Maybe one would be
44 hanging around there the whole year-round, you know. They used
45 to go behind my house and just stay there, a whole bunch of
46 them. But it's not like that anymore, the last two years. So
47 this is having a camp in Kobuk River in Kobuk Flats, I feel
48 that our numbers are really declining fast because we have a
49 lot of hunters going into Squirrel and Eli. Some of the pilots
50 openly say that, you know, there was a lot of moose but I don't

0062

1 think there was a lot of moose for subsistence at this time.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you Elmer. Anyone else? You
6 know, Johnny brings up a good point. I used to trap
7 extensively in the Aggie River and I used to see bunches of
8 moose, 50, 30 at a time, but they don't gather -- there's not
9 enough of them to get together anymore. I know there was a
10 crash at one time because I ran into a lot of them that had
11 died naturally up there. They starved I think. We had some
12 rain that one winter and they were just everywhere. They just
13 didn't make it through the winter.

14

15 Anyway, let's get to the biologists here. Maybe we can
16 ask Brad and then Gene, to give us some insight here on what it
17 looks like out there.

18

19 MR. SHULTS: Now, I'll be short and sweet. Brad
20 Shults, Park Service. I think that what you already heard is
21 very true. And I don't -- I think everybody's been saying the
22 same thing, moose are declining in certain areas faster than
23 other areas and there's some places that are doing better than
24 most areas, really across the state. And I think, and remember
25 don't shoot the messenger, but I'll be the messenger here, is
26 that hunting is not driving the decline.

27

28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Better watch his harpoon.

29

30 MR. RABINOWITCH: He's got a harpoon up there.

31

32 MR. SHULTS: Yeah, I've had my measles vaccination.
33 What's driving the decline is what you're seeing out there is a
34 lack of recruitable calves. You can't -- we have nothing
35 replacing what's dying. Not nothing, but very few.

36

37 And I'll give you an example of some information that
38 we've got from just this year from collared moose on the
39 Noatak. We have a small sample of collared moose, we know how
40 old they are. And I'll start off by saying the age structure
41 there in the moose population looks like it's skewed just like
42 it is for sheep. We have the median age of the cows that we
43 collared last spring is 11 years old. Most of them -- the mean
44 age was nine years old. So that's one thing to keep in mind.
45 The one thing we got going, moose live a long time. Cows can
46 live 17, 18 years, bulls a lot less, but keep that in mind.

47

48 What we found with that collared sample of cows and
49 we'll start with pregnancy is that 94 percent of them, actually
50 15 and 16, which isn't a big sample but it's fairly

0063

1 representative probably of what's going on out there had
2 calves, and 40 percent of them had twin calves. But the
3 clincher to that is that as of today only 20 percent of them
4 are still alive. They lost 75 percent of the calves in the
5 first six weeks. That's probably mostly due to predation and
6 that's where our problem is. And frankly changing hunting, if
7 you stopped hunting today and kept it closed for the next five
8 years, you'd see a noticeable increase in the bull to cow ratio
9 and you probably would not see a noticeable increase in the
10 number of moose standing out there. Because we are just not
11 recruiting calves.

12
13 MR. GRIEST: Is that a general trend across the whole
14 region or where are you talking about?

15
16 MR. SHULTS: I think that, you know, the places where
17 it's the worst are the Noatak and the Squirrel. And you got to
18 remember that what's going on in the Lower Noatak is shared
19 with the Squirrel. We got a lot of interchange between the
20 Squirrel River on the western end and the Lower Noatak. We got
21 bulls going over there for the rut, we got them coming back, we
22 got cows moving over into the western Squirrel, too. We've got
23 some animals that stay over there and calve actually. So
24 there's a little bit of interchange. From east to west there's
25 interchange. From north to south into the Kobuk Delta, too.
26 that's going on. But the Tag, which Gene can talk about shows
27 a much better recruitment rate than anywhere else and I suspect
28 the same is true on the Kobuk. So let's say from Kiana. And
29 it could be related to nutrition. Probably not. I'm not sure
30 what's going on.

31
32 I think there's quite an extensive harvest of wolves in
33 the middle Kobuk, that probably helps with that recruitment
34 rate. What's going in the Tag, I don't really know. I guess
35 the bottom line is that basically we don't have anything in the
36 tool box to deal with the natural situation out there. And I
37 think that the thing that everybody else in the State of Alaska
38 has found with moose populations after 30 years of research and
39 30 years of listening to what people that are out in the
40 country are saying is, you're stuck with it as long as you have
41 high numbers of predators and I guess we're stuck with that.
42 And without a major change in the predator populations we're
43 going to be in a low density, one moose per square mile
44 everywhere for a long time.

45
46 MR. GRIEST: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would an open season on bears kind
49 of help you?

50

0064

1 MR. SHULTS: Anything that's going to reduce predators
2 is going to help. But I'll tell you right up front, the people
3 that have spent -- in the Yukon they've spent a lot of time and
4 money trying to figure out how to get low density moose
5 populations off the ground and get them to grow. And what
6 they've found is that it takes a 60 percent reduction in the
7 local bear population to see a noticeable change in moose calf
8 recruitment. And that's because bears are very specific
9 predators, right at the calving season. And if you can get
10 them through that first two weeks without bears they do pretty
11 well. But the other factor, we've got a multiple predator
12 system where we got wolves picking them off until they're a
13 year old, at least, any time and mostly in the winter. So
14 that's the other factor that's going on here.

15
16 And there's some natural things that come into play
17 every once in a while, distemper might be one of them and
18 rabies is certainly one of them in the wolf population that
19 causes major changes in the number of wolves out there from
20 year-to-year.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You had a question?

23
24 MR. STONEY: Yeah, I got a question. Brad, as you
25 know, we got that no fly zone in the Noatak, did that do any
26 good at all in the last couple of years?

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All the hunters moved to the
29 Squirrel.

30
31 MR. SHULTS: I think what Willie says is true. And Jim
32 has been up here saying the same thing for years is what we're
33 doing by making controlled use areas and restricting two weeks
34 here like in the Noatak.....

35
36 MR. STONEY: Yes.

37
38 MR. SHULTS:where the season is two weeks
39 shorter.

40
41 MR. STONEY: Yes.

42
43 MR. SHULTS: We're scrunching the same number of
44 hunters into a smaller amount of time and we're moving from the
45 Noatak to the Squirrel to the Tag. And Gene's going to talk
46 about the Tag, the uses up on the Tag. And what we do on one
47 spot is going to effect what happens in another, you know.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What if we scrunch them all.

50

0065
1 MR. SHULTS: You're going to mix.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: By season.
4
5 MR. SHULTS: Yeah, you're mixing apples and oranges
6 now, though, because.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, but what I'm saying is it would
9 shorten the season.
10
11 MR. SHULTS: I think they'll still come. But let's try
12 to separate two things. One of the biological aspects of the
13 population dynamics and moose and what we can do about that and
14 let's separate that out from what can we do to deal with user
15 conflicts and allocation. That's another separate issue. And
16 I guess what I'm saying on the bottom line is I don't have
17 anything in my tool box to fix the moose thing. And I could
18 honestly say that if I closed -- if I had a wand and could
19 waive it and close moose hunting in the Noatak drainage and in
20 the Squirrel, too, I couldn't promise you anything except maybe
21 an increase in the bull/cow ratio. But I can't guarantee you
22 better than a 90 percent pregnancy rate.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It would certainly give Mr.
25 Armstrong a better chance of getting a bull.
26
27 MR. SHULTS: I'm not sure it would. I'm not sure it
28 would.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I mean he wouldn't have to stay in
31 his camp if he could go up the Noatak.
32
33 MR. SHULTS: I think if -- I lived on the Kobuk Delta,
34 and from what I know about moose distribution, I wouldn't waste
35 a drop of gas leaving the Kobuk Delta to shoot a moose.
36 Frankly, you know, the density of moose along the Kobuk is
37 highest -- is probably higher on the Kobuk than it is in any
38 other drainage.
39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I think you're going to find
41 out, well, you can't drop people off. The Kobuk Delta is
42 pretty much owned by NANA and KIC.
43
44 MR. SHULTS: Right.
45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: With very little Fish and Wildlife
47 land.
48
49 MR. SHULTS: I think what I wanted to say about the
50 bull/cow ratio just to kind of give you some idea of why it's

0066

1 important and why it's not -- bulls are important for one
2 thing. You know, they're important for reproduction and
3 conception rates. And we got a 90 plus percent pregnancy rate
4 putting more bulls out there to live longer will not increase
5 that pregnancy rate. And the other thing that goes on with
6 bulls is -- in the Noatak especially, we're seeing 40 percent
7 of the bulls out there are 50 inches are better. That's what
8 we see in our fall surveys. That's post-hunting. There's
9 still a large percentage of large, what we consider large prime
10 bulls, five years of age and older out there.

11
12 I'm not -- don't get me wrong, hunting always has an
13 effect, it's how measurable that effect is.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What areas do we not have surveys
16 in?

17
18 MR. SHULTS: Well, we got the Upper Kobuk, the Middle
19 Kobuk, we've got the Tag and the Selawik and we got one from
20 the Squirrel in '92 and we got three solid ones in the Noatak
21 with one due this year. So I think, you know, the gap is sort
22 of between like the salmon and hunt country up to -- all the
23 way up to the Reed River. You know, there's nothing going on
24 right in there, but there's a lot -- the use is sort of
25 concentrated up farther and there is one there that Fish and
26 Game did with Gates of the Arctic. So we have the results for
27 that. We're lacking a little data on the northern Seward
28 Peninsula on some of those rivers. The Buckland and the
29 Inmachuck, we're not doing much there.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

32
33 MR. GRIEST: Have you done some surveys on the
34 population of bear on the Noatak?

35
36 MR. SHULTS: The last time that we had a quantitative
37 survey of bear numbers was 1990, was that the year you did it?
38 Was from the Red Dog Study. They culminated that study with
39 the bear density estimate and one of the recommendations was to
40 repeat that within five to 10 years. And we've been -- we were
41 actually discussing that again this morning, is trying to put
42 something together again. You know, the consensus is that
43 there there are more bears than there were and bear numbers are
44 increasing and I don't think anyone doubts that. And the
45 question is, should we spend a lot of money to go count bears
46 to find out we already know what we know and use a Western
47 method to say there's more bears when everybody up and down
48 every river is saying there's more bears or should we use
49 limited funds to try to mitigate problems that people are
50 having with bears. And I'm not an expert on that, but maybe

0067

1 that's where we should put our effort and that's.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How do you propose mitigating it?

4

5 MR. SHULTS: I'm not going to propose.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Shoot them up?

8

9 MR. SHULTS: No. I mean I think the reality is a lot
10 of them do get shot. And that's the ultimate mitigation. But
11 there's a lot of people that don't want to shoot bears and
12 there are alternative ways of dealing with problem bears,
13 quote, problem bears, and separating people and bears. I'm not
14 an expert on it. The Department has some really good people
15 that do have ideas on that.

16

17 MR. GRIEST: So you're saying that your putting plans
18 together to hunt bears in the Noatak?

19

20 MR. SHULTS: We've had basically preliminary
21 discussions on that. It's an expensive venture. And I guess
22 that's what I'm putting out to you. I mean what's more
23 important a new number on bears when you and other people in
24 the region are saying there's plenty of bears and no one's
25 disputing that. I mean should we spend \$100,000, you know,
26 over a course of a week to count more bears or should we maybe
27 look at having some village meetings and discussing, hey, who's
28 having the problems? Is there anything we can do to minimize
29 those problems?

30

31 MR. GRIEST: Well, a couple of years ago there was -- I
32 was involved in a search for this person that got lost up
33 there, in the Noatak. Some days we'd see almost about 10 bears
34 when we were walking, there'd be like three or four or five in
35 the morning and then right through the evening when we'd come
36 back. There was quite a bit of brown bear.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Got anything else to add?

39 Donna.

40

41 MS. DEWHURST: I have a question. Brad, I hate to hit
42 you with this in a public forum, but I was just curious of your
43 opinion of, just listening to what you're talking about on the
44 update, would there be any value to start thinking about -- and
45 not just Federal hunts but maybe even proposals to the State
46 about start thinking about restricting cow harvests for moose?

47

48 MR. SHULTS: I brought that up before. You know, it
49 seems that we always race to closing seasons but there's a lot
50 of steps we can make along the way to deal with things. And

0068

1 the cow thing has come up again and again and again. And my
2 sense of that is that we have a very liberal cow harvest across
3 the units, especially in the Noatak.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: That's what I was just looking at. I
6 was just looking at the regs and that's what I noticed.

7
8 MR. SHULTS: The cows we have are doing quite well with
9 producing calves, they just can't bring them along to the age
10 that we need them. If I were to make one recommendation if
11 we're concerned about decreasing populations in moose, my
12 recommendation would be to close the cow season. Just close
13 it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Close the cow season and also the
16 out of region hunting.

17
18 MR. SHULTS: By closing hunting on bulls, no matter
19 who's doing it, all you're going to do is leave a few more
20 older standing bulls out there over a couple of years. You
21 will increase the bull/cow ratio. You will increase the
22 population increment by however many bulls aren't hunted, let's
23 say 100 in the Noatak if that's how many are harvested.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 140 region wide.

26
27 MR. SHULTS: Sure. That's 140 more every year that
28 will stand there for an additional two to three years until
29 they just die. Or actually they'll get killed. But, yeah, I
30 mean you can do those things. There's other things before you
31 actually just close the bull season that you can do to increase
32 the bull/cow ratio which still preserves the ability of anybody
33 to hunt moose. There's a lot of steps along the way, but, you
34 know, frankly you want to protect cows. You want as many cows
35 out there producing as many calves as you can produce.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would you support a drawing permit
38 hunt on bull moose?

39
40 MR. SHULTS: That's.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I mean if the State tried that on
43 the sheep, we might as well try it on the moose hunt then.

44
45 MR. SHULTS: There's a couple alternatives on bull
46 harvests and a drawing hunt is one of them. And that would
47 reduce the actual numbers of hunters up there which -- if your
48 goal is to reduce hunters from a user conflict standpoint, you
49 know, the ultimate is to close it to those users you don't want
50 there or you prefer not to be there. And the other is to take

0069

1 some steps to limit the number and what that number would be.
2 And a drawing -- a registration doesn't limit it. A drawing
3 hunt limits it. I'm not sure regulatory wise how that all
4 works on the Federal side or whether you -- you would have to,
5 I believe, go to the Board of Game and ask them to set up a
6 State drawing hunt?

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, we can close it to non-
9 subsistence hunters and work with whatever needs to be to get
10 the registration permit, can't we? I mean on a drawing permit?

11
12 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: You have to justify it.

13
14 MR. SHULTS: The bottom line is you have to justify
15 that based on biological parameters. And I'm not an ANILCA
16 expert, I don't know all those criteria. But there's really no
17 biological justification for limiting the harvestable moose.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But there's a subsistence
20 justification.

21
22 MR. SHULTS: I'm not the guy to talk about how you go
23 about changing the regulations.

24
25 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Fred.

28
29 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I think the issue is much more
30 complex than trying to reduce or limit huntings of bulls or
31 cows. There's other factors involved. There's wolves that are
32 involved. And the weather is another factor that's -- you
33 know, I haven't heard yet. You know if you have a rainy winter
34 and the moose have a hard time getting their feet and stuff
35 like that you'll see the -- the mortality rate goes up. I
36 think you have to -- there's many different land owners in this
37 region, pretty much Federal lands. And that I see what Brad is
38 getting at, you know, if you're going to reduce or eliminate a
39 hunt, you're just basically buying time for one year or two.
40 If you're going to look at long-term, it's going to have to be
41 perhaps a consolidated effort by all the regions together to
42 come up with a good management plan to increase the populations
43 for the moose and that will be addressing the different factors
44 that have been brought up so far. You got to have the entire
45 agency buy into this.

46
47 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

50

0070

1 MR. GRIEST: I'd like to get back to this bear thing, I
2 need some closure on that one. I know there's a general
3 feeling by the residents in Noatak and everyone's -- I think
4 there's an increase in bears.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thanks Fred.

7
8 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

9
10 MR. GRIEST: Maybe we can do an assessment of the bear
11 population for one thing. And then secondly, we could ask --
12 come up with some recommendations on maybe a bear -- opening a
13 bear season in that area.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think we can request that for our
16 February meeting. Some data that will help us make a decision
17 on what to do with the bear and a recommendation from the
18 various agencies. But I still want to get back to this
19 resolution. I can't sidestep and I don't want to, this
20 resolution here.

21
22 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, the resolution, how would
23 you work it, through a proposal?

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Actually it's a proposal in itself.
26 We talked about it when I first got it, the season -- it was
27 kind of timely, too, not timely -- excuse me Brad, let me
28 explain to Raymond here what's happening. I got it on probably
29 the 12th or 13th of September and I submitted it to the Fish
30 and Wildlife office in Anchorage on the 14th and they told me
31 that the 15th was the date that the out of state hunter season
32 was closing and we've got about -- it would take two to three
33 weeks to get a Special Action for the Federal Board to consider
34 it. So after talking to the various people in the Federal
35 Subsistence office, it was -- we concurred that not submitting
36 a Special Action but talk about it in this meeting so that we
37 can come up with a proposal for the February meeting for the --
38 I mean for the Federal Subsistence Board. To give the Staff
39 people more time to analyze the situation and help us justify
40 what we're saying, I guess, so to speak.

41
42 MR. STONEY: Again, Mr. Chairman, that resolution, they
43 would have to bring that to the Board themselves then?

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, no, we could do it -- through
46 us, yes.

47
48 MR. STONEY: Okay.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It is submitted. It is in the

0071

1 Federal Subsistence office. Are you guys required to do
2 something about it?

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. Not at this time because, you
5 know, at the time we -- Willie, as we talked about is whether
6 or not it would be a Special Action. We decided not to do a
7 Special Action so we aren't required to do anything unless you
8 or the village of Noorvik says, now, we want to take this
9 document and turn it into a proposal. At that point then we
10 will do a Staff analysis and treat it like any other proposal.
11 So you could just take this at face value and say we're
12 supporting this as a Regional Council and we want to forward
13 this on as a proposal or you could modify it. I mean it's up
14 to you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's hear from Gene first before
17 get further into this. Don't go away Brad.

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat).

20
21 MR. PELTOLA: You've been in the hot seat most of the
22 morning, Brad.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

25
26 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, first a little background.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Just a minute, Gene. Barb.

29
30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat)

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. (In Inupiat)

33
34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat)

35
36 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. I'll give you just a little
37 background about moose and moose population surveys on the
38 refuge. One of the first moose surveys of the Refuge, per se,
39 occurred in 1984 and '85. At that time they tried to do a
40 survey of what was approximately a 4,200 square miles which
41 encompassed the Kobuk River, Delta, the Waring Mountains, the
42 Upper Selawik, Tag River. And that's a really large chunk of
43 land to try to do at that time. And so what they ended up with
44 was 2,000 moose -- or 1,900 moose, plus or minus 2,000 moose.
45 They had bad weather to deal with, they didn't have good snow
46 conditions and they tried to do too large of an area. And so
47 up until between '84 and '85 until '91 nothing happened very
48 much on the Refuge specific concerning moose surveys. When I
49 first transferred up here in '91, as my first job was try to
50 pull a moose survey off on the Refuge. We tried a fall survey

0072

1 and -- oh, they tried a fall survey before I came up here and
2 that didn't work out. And so in the spring we tried to do a
3 spring survey. At that time we'd get a population estimate and
4 we could compare the number of adults to the number of calves.
5 It wasn't very successful that time either. We had like three
6 and a half weeks of 45 below zero plus weather and such. And
7 so after that we decided to take the Refuge itself, which
8 within the borders is 3.22 million acres which is a large chunk
9 and divide it up into smaller areas. And so what we had is we
10 had the Tag River, more or less, the southern part of the --
11 southwestern part of the Refuge and the Upper Selawik and then
12 the north and northwest section, which would encompass the
13 Waring Mountains and the Kobuk River Delta and try to take
14 smaller chunks of the refuge and look at populations in smaller
15 sections. And so in -- let's see with the budget process the
16 way it goes, if you don't complete a survey, they're kind of
17 reluctant to give you money to do it again if you fail the
18 first time due to whatever reasons. And so we finally got some
19 money to do a survey on the Tag River Drainage. And at that
20 time we had -- we started the moose project in '94 where we
21 collared bulls and cows. And based on the movement data we got
22 from those animals we found that there's a core area where a
23 majority of our collared moose hung out throughout the year and
24 that is the Tag Flats, west of the river. And so based on the
25 collared animals and then using definable geographic borders I
26 blocked off a 1,000 square miles which went from the Upper Palk
27 (ph) over to the east side of Tag, and then on the northern
28 section it was pretty much a straight line from south shore
29 Inland Lake all the way across. And so we took a thousand
30 square miles and we did a survey in there and this was March of
31 '97. And basically we came up with 1,300 moose, plus or minus,
32 what was it . -- was it 467 percent, which was a pretty good
33 estimate. And so we had a population estimate. And we didn't
34 have bull/cow ratios from that survey because it was done in
35 the spring. And so what we did have was adults versus calves.
36 In the meanwhile we had a collared population of animals on the
37 Tag. And of those cows, we've been following for up to four
38 years. And based on those cows we were seeing that we're
39 having, like Brad was talking about earlier, as we weren't
40 having very many calves being recruited into the population.
41 By spending more time out there in the flats and seeing that
42 there's a lot of bears that den in the Selawik Hills. As soon
43 as they come out of the Selawik Hills they go to the flats and
44 they look for something to eat. And then there's also some
45 wolf dens out there, active wolf dens and territories. So they
46 also, you know, hit the calves. And so in order to -- we got
47 the funding to try to pull our survey off in the Selawik River
48 Drainage, basically from where the Kougarok comes into the
49 Selawik on up through the drainage towards the Purcell Hot
50 Springs. And then that area blocked off, it's approximately

0073

1 1,140 or 60 square miles where we tried to do another fall
2 survey. And one thing that's unique about that stretch of the
3 river is that, you know, the winds come blowing off the
4 Purcells and there's not very much snow there. In order to do
5 a good survey you have to have good snow cover, so we weren't
6 able to do that last fall. In the spring -- we tried it again
7 during the spring and we didn't have adequate snow cover then
8 either. But we have a good population. A good idea of a
9 segment of the Tag River Drainage and the Tag Flats. And we
10 didn't try to go further on up the Tag river, you know, all the
11 way up towards Pasterby (ph) Creek or the headwaters because of
12 the amount of money we had, we had to kind of scale back and I
13 have a good gut feeling that we're going to get some good
14 numbers based on that smaller area, where the majority of the
15 moose are there anyway. And so that's where we stand on our
16 moose surveys.

17
18 And then this spring we had the collars on the cows in
19 the Tag River and the Tag Flats mainly and up and down the
20 drainage. And so what we did is put out an additional 22
21 collars on cows within the Selawik River Drainage and the
22 decision not to put any on bulls was like what Brad was
23 referring to earlier is that harvest of bulls won't drive the
24 population. Like what Brad was referring to earlier. And so
25 it would appear to be that we were having a problem with
26 recruitment. And so of those 22 cows we put on the Selawik
27 River, there was one that was pulled down early on in the
28 spring by a grizzly bear so that cow was taken out so we were
29 left at 21. Now that 21 we had there, I tracked those every
30 three to four days from May 23rd until the 7th of June. And
31 after the 7th of June we tried to get them at least every 10 to
32 14 days and following and seeing how successful they are at
33 pulling, you know, calves off through the year. And so far up
34 until the middle of July there are two sets of calves that are
35 carried on through until July. And of those 21 there are nine
36 cow which were not accompanied by calves. And two of those we
37 never did get a look at. Every time we'd go up to find them
38 they'd either be in the trees or up in the Purcells, in the
39 hills, in those deep canyons where it's windy and I couldn't
40 get down in and see them. And so those seven and 21 we did not
41 observe any cows -- not observe with calves and there's either
42 two things that happened there. One, is they dropped the calf
43 before I got to them and it was lost be a predator, or two,
44 they didn't have a calf. And probably more towards the prior
45 as opposed to the latter is my gut feeling.

46
47 And of those we had approximately 20 percent of our
48 cows had twins which is pretty respectable. And the majority
49 of our calf loss, there's one observed -- one cow with her
50 calves observed by a grizzly bear taking it, it occurred while

0074

1 I was circling up ahead and actually Leslie was with me in the
2 backseat when it occurred. And then there's -- the others, I
3 could say that four, possibly five were due to black bear
4 predation. I see them one day with black bears, you know, a
5 couple hundred yards away following them, the next day they
6 wouldn't be there. And the way you see it on the drainage
7 itself was that from Ingrichauk on up the drainage there seemed
8 to be more of an effective black bear predation, and the only
9 confirmed -- or suspected grizzly bear was from Ingrichauk on
10 down the drainage. And we're having -- at least for the
11 collared population we're having a problem with recruitment in
12 there. One of the things that is hampered when we're following
13 the cows that we had collared on the Tag is that we did not get
14 any age estimates on the cows. And so this spring when we did
15 do the capture, we pulled a tooth out of a cow to get an idea
16 of how old she was. Assuming that say an older cow would have
17 more experience and be more successful than a calf or a younger
18 cow. And that data still needs to be analyzed, it hasn't gone
19 through that yet. And if you compare what we saw this spring
20 on the Selawik to the Tag, you know, the highest that every
21 occurred on the Tag is 44 percent of our cows were able, you
22 know, to pull off cows through until the fall. And the low
23 end, you know, seven percent or two at 29, so we're within the
24 same range on the Tag. But this is only, not even the first
25 full year of following the Selawik. And so that's the survey
26 data.

27
28 And on the Refuge itself, in order to do commercial
29 operations, air taxi operating or guiding you have to have a
30 special use permit. And we, in our office, mainly Mark Koepsel
31 our Refuge operational specialists have been following special
32 use permits in the office. One of the requirements is that
33 they give us a report at the end of the season, how many people
34 the brought in, how many user days and what animals were taken.
35 And part of that is -- the reason we're collecting that is up
36 in, I think it was two years ago, that Fish and Wildlife
37 Service as a whole required the permittees report this because
38 they're charged a daily use fee for -- like if they have one
39 person on the river for five days -- on a river on the Refuge
40 for five days, they're charged like few dollars a day so that
41 way they end up writing a check to the Treasury at the end of
42 the year. But because of that, we have some good user data.

43
44 And we've presented these numbers to the Advisory
45 Council before but I'll go through them again. And just keep
46 in mind though that this data is only for people we have
47 permitted or have been permitted to operate on the Refuge, it
48 does not include say someone that may come from Fairbanks or
49 Anchorage in their own plane and go out hunting or it doesn't
50 including, you know, someone that's come out of Kotzebue or

0075

1 going by boat. And so we have, say air taxis or operators, we
2 have one -- last year we had five -- four people permitted to
3 operate on the Refuge. And currently we put a camp on the
4 Selawik, we put a camp in right at the mouth of Kralick Creek
5 on the Selawik and they're trying to talk to the hunters, get
6 an idea of aircraft use and such. And also we had a camp just
7 right by -- just above the bluffs on the Tag River. And Mark
8 was still in that camp as of this morning, he was coming out
9 today so we won't have the numbers for this fall yet, but we'll
10 have those between November and January when we get reports
11 from our air taxis.

12
13 And so I'll give you the numbers we have up until --
14 you know, mainly for last year. Okay, so we had a total on the
15 Tag River, 34 moose taken and 83 caribou. And of which there
16 was a total of 54 hunters on the Tag by our permittees. And
17 then last year on the Selawik we had a total -- oh, excuse me,
18 the total number of harvest of moose and caribou were for both
19 drainages, sorry about that. But we had 54 hunters on the Tag.
20 Last year on the Selawik we had a total of 37 hunters. And so
21 this fall I houred probably between 40 and 50 hours over the
22 Refuge, mainly those two drainages, the Selawik and the Tag
23 River. And also we had a Fish and Wildlife Service law
24 enforcement agent who is stationed in Nome who came up and he
25 flew approximately another 35 hours. His major duty was to,
26 you know, make contact with hunters, check licenses and such,
27 more of a law enforcement capacity. And what I did was I flew
28 up higher and got -- counted the number of camps and passed
29 those on to him so he could visit them and get a general idea
30 of use also. I put the camps in in the rivers and such.

31
32 And so just by comparing last year to this year, the
33 amount of people on the Tag River itself is most likely the
34 same. That area to the west of the Tag, what I call the
35 pothole region and the flats, we probably had a slight increase
36 in the amount of people or camps that use that area. And then
37 on the Selawik River itself we had probably an increase over
38 last year. I'd say a definite increase over last year. I can
39 make guesses at numbers but it would be purely speculative and
40 you know, it'd be like pulling a number just off the top of my
41 head and it may not be true. It may be way off or it may be
42 close. So you know, my gut feeling is an increase on the
43 Selawik and then pretty much the same on the Tag. There were a
44 few more people on the south side of the Tag -- I mean the
45 Selawik River, and you know, the lakes out there as compared to
46 last year. And the difference between last year and this year
47 is that we had one more -- two more permittees. One was
48 another air taxi operator, we lost one from last year and it
49 was replaced by another individual out of Anchorage, and we
50 also had individual with a six-pack license and a boat so he's

0076

1 permitted to take people out by boat.

2

3 And if you compare the numbers between '93 and '97,
4 I'll just run through some of them here on the chart that Mark
5 made up. On the Tag, you know, in '93 we had 34 people, '94 we
6 had 27. And where we start to see an increase is from '95 on
7 to the present time. And part of that is, I believe, when Mark
8 wrote this up, is that '94 is when they implemented the
9 controlled use are on the Noatak. So that started displacing
10 hunters from other -- from that drainage to other drainages of,
11 you know, Northwest Alaska and the region. You know, so as we
12 started seeing increased use elsewhere it started displacing
13 more and more people to the Refuge. In the Selawik River, the
14 numbers have been fairly constant, I think up until this year.
15 You know, in '93 we had -- I mean up until the last two years.
16 In '93 we had 14 people, in '94 we had eight, and starting '95
17 and there again, we started seeing an increase, where we had 25
18 in '96 and 40 in '97. We'll probably have just as many but
19 mostly likely more on the Selawik this year.

20

21 And to get back to like the moose surveys, one thing
22 that just popped in my mind is that when Brad was talking about
23 bulls, bull/cow ratios and such is that when we're -- when the
24 flying -- I'm doing a summer project, Brad's doing on the
25 Noatak with a couple of different exceptions, but when I was
26 flying -- I started flying on May 23rd. And there's some, I
27 believe may have dropped prior to that and when they're
28 dropping the calves they're really synchronize and they're
29 close in. Which would tend, you'd think at a further northern
30 latitude that they would calf a lot later but that's not true.
31 And our calving dates are similar to the Interior and for the
32 southern latitudes in the State which means that we're not
33 having a problem with cows being impregnated by bulls. And
34 part of the bad thing about the winter surveys is you don't get
35 the bull/cow ratios. But if you look at when our calves are
36 dropping it's fairly synchronize and type time frame and
37 they're calving early which means that there is -- by looking
38 at the numbers we should -- don't or should not have a problem
39 with bulls impregnating cows. And so that will give us insight
40 into a relation of bulls to cows without having that ratio.

41

42 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Question, Bert.

45

46 MR. GRIEST: You really don't have too much to worry
47 about in the Selawik Flats for the time being anyway?

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: See right now on the Tag River I would
50 say that we do not have a biological problem. Of the two

0077

1 drainages, we don't have a survey that has trust -- numbers we
2 can trust on the Selawik. And one of the -- I didn't really
3 start spending a lot of time from like Kralock Creek on up the
4 drainage up until this year. One thing I started noticing by
5 following those cows, you know, every few days during the
6 spring is that the number of moose we have in the Purcells, you
7 know, in the northern extension, there's kind of like a deep
8 base and they come in and then inside the Purcells they kind of
9 open up, well, we have a lot of moose in there, you know, more
10 than I would ever have thought of. And you can go through in
11 the '84/85 survey data, the old reports in the files and see
12 that they did a couple of survey units in there and that the
13 densities were fairly high when their in there. But by getting
14 in there -- until getting in there and looking I didn't know
15 how many we would have. And sure if a bull is there during a
16 certain part of the time, throughout his life, he may come out
17 of there and get on the river and be exposed to harvest but we
18 have that little area where a certain time frame they're not
19 exposed to harvest. On the Selawik, itself, a majority of our
20 hunting effort is right along the river corridor.

21
22 And so the Refuge priority would be to get a good
23 survey in on that drainage. And part of the reason that we
24 expanded monitoring cows in the Selawik River Drainage is that
25 by looking at the numbers of the increased use on the Refuge --
26 on the Tag and there wasn't as many in Selawik, you could see
27 that as seasons and bag limits get restricted elsewhere or if
28 they expand access, that if people still want to hunt Northwest
29 Alaska, then you can only assume that our -- on the Refuge
30 harvest -- or use, I should say is going to increase. And so
31 we try to expand following the cows up in there to get a better
32 idea of what's occurring before something became a problem. At
33 this time I wouldn't say that we have a biological problem.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions?

36
37 MR. STONEY: I got a question. Like the local hunters,
38 most of them at the Selawik because, you know, they're required
39 a harvest ticket, are they getting the harvest ticket and are
40 reporting back to your office?

41
42 MR. PELTOLA: We -- the Fish and Wildlife Service, at
43 this office, does not get the harvest ticket return, that goes
44 to the State. And then what we get is -- there's a time delay
45 between when they get them -- they process them and I can't
46 remember the time delay but they end up coming out with a
47 booklet, you know, after the season. I can't remember the time
48 frame. Where you could look through for all the State of
49 Alaska. But we don't get the harvest ticket returns in our
50 office.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can you require that in your permit?

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: What we can do with our permits and
4 Leslie can correct me if I'm wrong, is that, we could put a lot
5 of stipulations on what they do. But I think there would be
6 more of a problem, say requiring that the hunter turn the
7 harvest ticket to us since that's a State action, you know, the
8 harvest ticket returns. But we have a good idea on -- those
9 people that take someone out. Say like if someone from
10 Kotzebue or even Galena for that matter, if they bring a hunter
11 out, based on their use, they have to tell us how many people
12 they brought out and how many moose they're taking. So with
13 the permittees that we have, we have a good idea of what
14 they're harvesting. What we don't have, like I was saying, you
15 know, is the people like from Fairbanks and Anchorage who come
16 out on their own time and their own aircraft and go hunting in
17 there. We won't know about those harvests until we get the
18 booklet from ADF&G. After they collect them all then they do
19 their annual summary, which I can't remember what the delay
20 time is between.

21

22 MR. SHULTS: The one thing to say about harvest ticket
23 returns under the State system for resident and non-resident
24 hunters. Lee Anne can correct me because she gets the
25 information, but reporting on those -- for every person that
26 picks up one of those harvest tickets from wherever they pick
27 it up, the green ones say for moose, the reporting on those is
28 better than 80 percent state wide. So you get a pretty good
29 idea of where they hunted, how long they hunted and what they
30 ended up killing.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The problem we have is not getting
33 from the State to you guys?

34

35 MR. SHULTS: It can be a problem. I did talk to.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I've heard you.

38

39 MR. SHULTS: I did talk to Donna earlier about that and
40 apparently they are still getting the harvest data bases.....

41

42 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

43

44 MR. SHULTS:as far as I know. So I think we
45 have.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So it's from Anchorage to Kotzebue?

48

49 MR. SHULTS: Yeah, it's a communication thing. I think
50 we might be able to work through it.

0079

1 MS. DEWHURST: I was going to mention that what he says
2 though, it's 80 percent reporting for the standard people that
3 get -- that buy a hunting license and buy a ticket, but what
4 the studies have proven all through the state is it's a vast
5 under reporting of subsistence hunters. Because a lot of
6 subsistence hunters don't buy a hunting license or if they do
7 buy -- even do buy a hunting license and get a tag, a lot of
8 them don't turn them in. And the reason I know that and I've
9 seen it several times is when they go and do household surveys,
10 the household survey harvest is tremendously larger than what
11 any of the State's records ever show. I just went through this
12 in Bristol Bay where they wanted to close -- just a real
13 similar thing, they wanted to close moose and caribou seasons
14 on the Alaska Peninsula to non-local -- non-subsistence users,
15 same situation. And when I looked at the State's harvest data
16 on moose, it was showing, you know, that some of the villages
17 were taking one moose in 10 years, but yet when they did
18 household surveys in those same villages they were showing that
19 those villages were taking 15, 20 moose a year. But yet the
20 State's records didn't show that. So you have to take those
21 State's records with -- you know, you really have to take them
22 and interpret them correctly because it vastly underreports
23 subsistence users. It's good for the out of state user.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's why Elmer can't get a moose
26 near his cabin. I mean, uh, we have a problem with a number of
27 things, you know. Go ahead Brad.

28
29 MR. SHULTS: Well, I was going to say that I think
30 everyone recognizes that the state wide reporting harvest
31 system doesn't work in rural areas basically. And that's --
32 you folks that have been involved in the caribou thing know
33 that harvest reporting has been a big part of that. And you
34 know, to relate that back to home, the reason we've never
35 closed the cow season for moose, say in the Noatak, is that
36 hardly any of our collars have -- I'm not sure, but it's one or
37 two out of the 200 plus moose that we have radio collared there
38 have ever been shot. And I'm not sure any of those were by
39 local residents.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We don't eat collars, they're hard
42 to chew.

43
44 MR. SHULTS: I hear you. But harvest only cows doesn't
45 seem to be that substantial. I'm not saying it doesn't happen
46 it's just not substantial, that's why we haven't made that
47 regulatory change.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have anymore questions?
50 Okay, here's what I'm hearing. First of all we got this

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1 resolution that we have to -- should do something about.

2

3 MR. SHULTS: Excuse me, can I add one thing before you
4 say that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

7

8 MR. SHULTS: Because I think this is really important
9 and to be up front and honest with you. Is that you'll find no
10 biologist in moose biology around, probably North America that
11 can tell you what too low of a bull/cow ratio is. The parting
12 words of some of the great ones is, we don't know. But I can
13 tell you that most people are thinking anything below 20 is not
14 a good idea, 20 per 100. And a lot of management objectives
15 for the rest of the state are for 20 per 100 and I think that's
16 too low. And you know, I think what we're opting for at 40 is
17 good and is a safe place to be, and any higher than that is
18 better, too.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What is it now?

21

22 MR. SHULTS: The mean bull/cow ratio for just the
23 Noatak, somewhere in the mid-30s, and I won't -- I will tell
24 you that it's probably eroding somewhat from the, you know, the
25 60s that it might have been 10 or 15 years ago. But certainly
26 hunting is driving the bull/cow ratio to a lower level, how low
27 it's going to go it's hard to say. But I think within the next
28 year or two we do need to look at that. And this fall I'm kind
29 of thinking we're going to get a good number to see how that
30 is, but I think the trend is down.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How about the Squirrel?

33

34 MR. SHULTS: The Squirrel, I suspect that it's having a
35 major effect on the bull/cow ratio there. But the one survey
36 from the Squirrel, those results are really tracking what's
37 going on in the Noatak in a lot of ways. So I think we'll have
38 to wait and -- if it's a good fall we'll get two done and we'll
39 have two new numbers. But I think it's fair to say about the
40 bull/cow ratio that no one has a good answer for that. But I
41 think the indicators are pregnancy rate, you know. And big
42 calves in the first eschers (ph) that are born -- that are
43 conceived during the first escher so they get a longer chance
44 at developing in the summer, and look at things like that and
45 that's the indicator.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I don't want to do is wait
48 until we have a problem.

49

50 MR. SHULTS: Right.

0081

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If we, as you say, we're starting to
2 see indications of a potential problem in the Noatak and the
3 Squirrel.....
4

5 MR. SHULTS: If it's below 30 this time around, we
6 should probably think about doing something. Not closing it
7 but perhaps changing the regulatory structure that will protect
8 a few more bulls, that's it. I don't think that's going to
9 have any biological difference but let's, like as you say, be
10 conservative and head it off early.
11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't want to get into a situation
13 like we did with the caribou or the sheep. When they -- when
14 we found out the numbers were down, all of a sudden we couldn't
15 even get a cow or a ewe, you know. And I'd like to head that
16 off. What I'm saying here is first of all we need some pretty
17 good survey data. We don't have it in the Squirrel. We don't
18 have anything up to date in the Squirrel. So my feeling is
19 that right now we should do something or recommend something in
20 Squirrel and in the Noatak.
21

22 Then outlining that we have a predation problem that we
23 need to address. A couple of ways we can do it is I hear we
24 can limit the cow harvest but if we do that I'm not willing to
25 give up the cow harvest if we're going to keep the same harvest
26 for the bulls for the out of region hunters. So we've got to
27 make up what our local people can't get of what can be got.
28 And that's the way I look at it. If we're going to give up
29 something in the cows, we should let the out of region hunters
30 give up something in the bulls so we can get better access to
31 them.
32

33 MS. AYERS: Willie, can I give you some numbers on
34 hunters in the Squirrel and numbers of moose taken?
35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you can share them?
37

38 MS. AYERS: I can.
39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes, if you will, please.
41

42 MS. AYERS: All you had to do is ask.
43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We'll give you, I don't know,
45 whatever it takes -- five minutes because I want to take a
46 break here.
47

48 MS. AYERS: This is from -- let me just tell you with
49 the state wide harvest reporting system, like Brad and Gene
50 have pointed out, it's been shown to be very good for non-local

0082

1 hunters. People who pick up the harvest tags. That data comes
2 into the State and in January we get a preliminary report of
3 all the people who voluntarily turned in their harvest reports.
4 They send out a reminder letter, actually two reminder letters.
5 The final harvest report for us comes out in about June.
6 That's available. That's available to everybody. In that
7 report, people's harvest is listed by -- we code it by the
8 drainage they report harvesting in. Now, some people will
9 report Unit 23, so those are unknown. The majority of people
10 are very specific about a drainage and so we have a number that
11 put the Squirrel. People who hunt in the Squirrel tend not to
12 know they're in the Kobuk, they're in the Squirrel.

13
14 So anyway, what I have done is I've gone through the
15 last three years of that data set and looked at all the people
16 who reported hunting moose in the Squirrel. So this is going
17 to be missing people who don't put where they hunted or people
18 who put the Kobuk and not the Squirrel, but by and far, those
19 are fairly few. So for last year, this is '97/98, there were
20 47 hunters who reported hunting in the Squirrel River. One was
21 a local, 18 non-local, that's non-local residents and 24 non-
22 residents and four unknown of whether they were locals,
23 residents or non-residents. Of those 47 hunters, 18 were
24 successful in getting moose. And that was the harvest from the
25 Squirrel from that data.

26
27 Okay, the previous year, were 39 total hunters
28 reporting. Zero local.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Lee Anne.....

31
32 MS. AYERS: Wait let me go through. Thirty-nine with
33 21 moose harvested. The year before that '95/96, 64 hunters
34 with 28 moose reported harvested. Now, that's from that data
35 base that you've been querying about.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did you count the four that were
38 illegally caught and the meat was given to me last fall from
39 the Squirrel?

40
41 MS. AYERS: Forty moose?

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Four.

44
45 MS. AYERS: Not if you didn't put it on a harvest card.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, they didn't so I got the meat
48 after it was spoiled.

49
50 MS. AYERS: Well, if it was taken through the State

0083

1 system, and like I say.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Squirrel.

4
5 MS. AYERS:there are going to be -- I'm sure
6 there's local people that take moose in there that don't pick
7 up a harvest.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, no, no, it was a hunter that
10 they.....

11
12 MS. AYERS: If they're hunters that.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Out of stater.

15
16 MS. AYERS:fill out a card then they're in there.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, these are the guys that were
19 prosecuted.

20
21 MS. AYERS: Yeah, that would be in there. We get DLP
22 and enforcement cases in there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

25
26 MS. AYERS: An interesting thing of looking through
27 this, you know, because this is just looking through that data
28 base, something I did notice was that looking for where local
29 residents who were in the system were reporting, a majority of
30 those were down in the Kobuk Delta. They were below the
31 Squirrel River and out in that area. So that's one danger of
32 looking at that State harvest data really strictly, is that,
33 those moose in the Kobuk Delta are part of the Squirrel River
34 moose population. Most of those moose in the Squirrel will
35 move down into the Kobuk Delta later in the winter as you guys
36 know. So it's all -- you know, you can't be too -- narrow it
37 down too much without missing the biological point of the data
38 you're looking at.

39
40 But anyway, that data -- and the same thing is
41 available for the Selawik and the Noatak. And I think Jim
42 Dau's reported that, you know, quite a bit for the Noatak when
43 we were looking at harvest patterns there, so that's available.
44 But the thing that's missing is the local harvest.

45
46 The other thing I wanted to throw in while you were
47 talking about options and bears is from the State's
48 perspective. You know, bears and the desire to increase bear
49 harvest was discussed quite a bit at the Board of Game meeting.
50 One of the things that was very clear was that, you know, there

0084

1 was a lot of sentiment about increasing bear population and a
2 desire to somehow increase harvest. The options that are
3 available to increase harvest through the State system is
4 there's already subsistence hunt of one bear a year. What's
5 being considered right now or is on the table is reviewing the
6 one bear every four years for residents and also the \$25 tag
7 fee for residents. The last option is the non-resident, doing
8 away with the drawing permit system or simply increasing the
9 number of permits available through that system. The Board of
10 Game was very clear to us, in that, even if we thought there
11 were a lot of bears, they wanted to see data showing that the
12 bear population could withstand a higher harvest. So they're
13 very conservative on -- even when we say, well, it's what we
14 see as biologists doing surveys on moose throughout the year
15 throughout the areas, they're still very adamant about not
16 supporting a liberalization of brown bear harvest unless we
17 have a better population monitoring system in place.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So if we move to cut the moose, will
20 you guys counteract with opening the bears to the.....

21
22 MS. AYERS: Not unless we have data that we can provide
23 the Board showing that bear numbers -- and I think Brad brought
24 up a very good point. That a 60 percent reduction in a
25 predator population to see an increase or an effect, and that's
26 just bears, we still have wolves, we still have bad winters.
27 So in order to reduce the bear population 60 percent to have an
28 effect, you'd have to be really monitoring that bear population
29 to make sure you didn't drive it downhill and to an
30 unrecoverable level. So that's probably not a real option.

31
32 But there is -- I guess the point I wanted to make is
33 that there are some avenues through the State system to
34 liberalize bear regulations. But it was discussed and it's
35 going to require some hard data on bear numbers first.

36
37 Did I stay in five minutes?

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You did.

40
41 MS. AYERS: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Let's take five minutes
44 -- five to 10.

45
46 (Off record)
47 (On record)

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Helen you're taking good notes,
50 right?

0085

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, let's get started here, back
4 in session, are you ready?

5

6 COURT REPORTER: Ready.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. I have a plan. What I'm
9 hearing is that we need to get a pretty good survey done.
10 Unfortunately also a point that Mr. Walker brought out earlier
11 the surveys that were done in the late '70s, that would give us
12 an idea of how high the populations were not provided to us.
13 Minus that, I also hear that -- and I do know in discussions
14 with Jim Dau that the State usually try to manage the moose
15 that -- 40 bulls to 100 cows. With a couple of facts that have
16 been brought before us in the Noatak and the Squirrel, that
17 that ratio is diminishing into the 30 to 100 cows, and with the
18 fact that there's extensive predation, it's a complex problem
19 that's going to involve all of the agencies here, the Park
20 Service, Fish and Wildlife and BLM. So we also have this
21 resolution from Noorvik. What I think we should do is to go
22 ahead and propose this as a proposal so that the Staff can look
23 at all of the numbers, keeping in mind that one biologist has
24 already suggested -- now, this is just a suggestion, he's not
25 saying it, is that, a good manageable number for a bull to cow
26 ratio is 40 to 100 cows. And until we reach that or to some
27 other justification that would prohibit us from opening a
28 subsistence only season, then we want to see those reasons
29 before the Federal Board meeting so that we can decide whether
30 or not we want to pull back this proposal so it can be worked
31 on further i.e., by determining the harvest levels and the
32 seasons, with the -- keeping in mind that we don't want to do
33 anything to the subsistence user season at this point. We
34 don't want to limit any of our people's ability to hunt the
35 moose, whether it's cows or bulls. But the limitation on the
36 other users, the out of state, the in-resident, but not the
37 residents of Unit 23. Keeping that in mind, so what I think we
38 should do is go forward with the proposal like the Noorvik IRA
39 has asked us to do. That will give the Staff ample time to
40 look at all the numbers, keeping in mind that we also have
41 predation. We know that the wolves travel from range-to-range,
42 from different drainages and we know that the bears move
43 around, but we also want to see some kind of a plan put
44 together to address the predation problem. But with a -- and I
45 hate to say a good ratio is 40 bulls to 100 cows right now
46 until I see some numbers from the earlier surveys that would
47 show high numbers of moose populations throughout the whole
48 region. I do know that we should keep in mind that if the
49 Staff reports come back and say there's some certain areas in
50 the region that have pretty high, good populations, good bull

0086

1 to cow ratio but there are some that are being hit pretty hard
2 right now, the Squirrel and the Noatak, that some kind of
3 regulation be put into. And probably a third priority would e
4 the Selawik Drainage. We do know that from the reports that
5 have been given to us, the Kobuk Valley, the Kobuk River has a
6 pretty good population, the Upper Kobuk, I mean. What the
7 Squirrel River Drainage also effects the Lower Kobuk.

8
9 So unless there's some disagreement from the Council
10 members here on what I just said, maybe we can go ahead and
11 move to propose this proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board
12 knowing that after the Staff reports we might be convinced, and
13 I say, convinced to change this.

14
15 Bert.

16
17 MR. GRIEST: In that discussion, it talks about the
18 whole Unit 23. And if we consider just the biological
19 basis.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well.....

22
23 MR. GRIEST: Let me finish. For the whole Unit 23, I
24 think that's going to be -- there's going to be lots of work
25 that needs to be done. I'd like to see that there's some
26 surveys of some areas that are not done be done, the Noatak
27 River area, the Eli, Aggie, the entire Noatak Drainage, the
28 Squirrel River area, Lower Kobuk and Selawik River. Focus on
29 those areas that are not done and then recommend a short-term
30 and long-term management plan. To include maybe the idea of
31 liberalizing bear hunt, maybe wolf as well.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. I think those can all be put
34 into the -- taken into consideration when we present the data
35 or the backup for the proposal that we're asking to be done.
36 You know, maybe at that point we can -- once all the data has
37 been compiled, up to date data and the reasons why we shouldn't
38 close certain areas will come up and then we can possibly come
39 before the Federal Subsistence Board and make amendments to our
40 proposal.

41
42 I think at that point we should have a pretty good idea
43 of what areas should be closed if there should -- if it
44 warrants justification. Now, I don't want to -- also go into
45 the Federal Subsistence Board with a smoking gun and come out
46 empty, you know. We got to be able to justify what we're doing
47 and that's why I wanted some lead time for the Staff members to
48 come up with justification for us if it's there, if not, we can
49 pull back and ask the Federal Board not to act on the proposal
50 until we get more data or more justification. But I think just

0087

1 based on the numbers and what they're saying, the justification
2 I see right now to do some sort of limitation is a fact that
3 the bull to cow ratio is much lower than what the moose
4 population has been managed by historically.

5
6 Leslie.

7
8 MS. KERR: Maybe I'm regulationally challenged. I'm a
9 little unclear clear on exactly what you're proposing to
10 propose. What I think hear you proposing is a resolution -- is
11 a recommendation to have Staff analysis of a closure of all of
12 Unit 23 to non-subsistence hunting?

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

15
16 MS. KERR: For moose.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

19
20 MS. KERR: Have you considered the backlash.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

23
24 MS. KERR:that you will get from that? Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's why I'm saying, we'll pull
27 back from it if it shows that we can't justify it before the
28 Federal Board meeting. We'll have time, we'll do it in
29 February.

30
31 MR. GRIEST: I think we need to discuss that a little
32 bit more, Mr. Chairman. I think we should focus on certain
33 areas that are having problems right now and just focus on
34 those and then do a survey and do an analysis of the problems
35 in these areas and then recommend a course of action. And then
36 do those areas rather than the whole Unit 23.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Why don't we do this then,
39 Bert. Let's go ahead and recommend the closure for the
40 Squirrel and Noatak Drainages. That's where I see the
41 potential problems that are occurring based on what the
42 biologists have brought forward to us.

43
44 MR. STONEY: So what you're saying is that -- the
45 Noatak and Squirrel, just put a limitation on that but.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, close it to a non-subsistence
48 user.

49
50 MR. STONEY: Okay.

0088

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But, you know, we might change our
2 mind come February when we see all the back up and all the data
3 but we'll submit the proposal like that right now. They may
4 recommend to us just to, you know, close the -- or you know,
5 put limits on the non-resident. You know, but whatever they
6 recommend will hopefully be justified and the justification
7 would be for us to see that the management of the moose are at
8 the level that historically -- and the State has -- they've
9 always said that, they'd like to see moose managed at 40 bulls
10 to 100 cows, and it's under that right now in those two areas.
11 And until we reach that level, then consideration for all of
12 the other uses can be discussed and provided for. I think we
13 should at least give the people of Noorvik some assurance that
14 we'll do something here, you know.

15
16 Fred.

17
18 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, I was just thinking
19 maybe along those lines also would -- because we have a
20 multitude of agencies that are involved in this, is perhaps an
21 interagency task force to look at this issue and how we can
22 best address it with minimum impacts on the, not only the user
23 but the residents of the region.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's what I was talking about when
26 -- it's going to involve all the agencies here because we have
27 predation -- the predation issue involved all -- and the wolves
28 go back and forth, and the bears, you know. But until I'm
29 convinced that a 35 bulls to 100 cows is a.....

30
31 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: That would be one of the issues that
32 this task force could be charged with.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. What I'm asking for is a
35 Staff analysis. The Staff people from these agencies work on
36 that. It would involve the agencies through their Staff people
37 to do the justification for a proposal.

38
39 Bert.

40
41 MR. GRIEST: I think we have enough information on the
42 Squirrel to do that. Do we have enough information on Noatak
43 River, that entire area or is it just certain areas?

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The entire area, right, I know the
46 Lower Noatak.

47
48 MR. SHULTS: I can speak for the Noatak, we're managing
49 basically the Noatak from our survey area, that's the Kelly and
50 the Kougarok where predominately most of the hunting occurs.

0089

1 We know there's hunting below there and we know there's hunting
2 at the Nimy and those sorts of things. But I think we have
3 enough biological information to set some parameters, a suite
4 parameters to manage by. I think we're in the early stages of
5 learning a lot more about population dynamics of moose,
6 specifically in the Noatak and the Selawik because we have
7 radio collared cows of known age, known reproductive histories
8 and those sorts of things. And I think that's still coming in
9 and I think that's going to be good stuff. And so if that
10 answers your question in a general way, I think those are the
11 -- focus on the places where we have the most -- two things,
12 one is quantitative biological information and two, is local
13 users knowledge that supports what we're after and I think
14 those are probably the two places where we do have that.

15
16 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

19
20 MR. GRIEST: So what you're saying is we do have -- my
21 question is, do we have enough information on the Noatak to be
22 able to justifiably close the Noatak area?

23
24 MR. SHULTS: Based on a bull/cow ratio, no. I mean, we
25 don't.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can you get it?

28
29 MR. SHULTS: We got it. I mean I'll say it again, if
30 we put more bulls out there and dropped them today and allowed
31 them to participate in the rut, if there were 100 bulls per 100
32 cows out there, the pregnancy rate would probably not be above
33 what it is now.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So that's where you have an
36 opportunity -- or the agencies have an opportunity to come up
37 with the recommendation. If you're going to cut back on the
38 cows, I'm not willing to give up one cow unless I can get a
39 bull for our people.

40
41 MR. SHULTS: That's a use issue and not a biological
42 issue. The biological issues, I can't do anything for you to
43 increase the population.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Donna.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: Just to kind of refresh on how the
48 analysis works, because I'm going to be the lead person on this
49 analysis. So I -- I mean I'll be working with the agencies,
50 but I'm going to be the lead author pulling all the information

0090

1 in. The primary focus of analysis on this sort is biology. It
2 will be -- that will be the primary information in there. So
3 the information you've already heard from Brad will be the
4 primary information that's going to be the meat of the
5 analysis. We will look at user conflicts and things, but it
6 sounds like there's not a lot of solid information out there
7 other than local knowledge information which is really hard to
8 put down in paper and in reports so it's hard to quantify. So
9 what we're going to end up falling back heavily on is the
10 biology and what you've already heard is what you're going to
11 see again in the analysis. You know, if Brad's saying that
12 restricting hunters isn't going to benefit the population and
13 isn't going to provide more opportunity for subsistence users,
14 well, you're going to see that echoed right in the analysis.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, if they're not going to take
17 care of the predation then we've certainly got to do something
18 about the hunting part.

19
20 Ida.

21
22 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
23 member. It seems we're going somewhat in circles. My
24 recommendation to the Council is to go ahead and proceed with
25 your recommended proposal only because of the October 23
26 deadline for the proposal. It is always the option of this
27 Council or any proponent to withdraw their proposal. And as
28 far as the biology, the biology can state -- whatever the
29 biology states is what you -- is exactly what you've asked them
30 for. However, there's also the prerogative of this Council to
31 present as much traditional knowledge and uses and ask the
32 anthropologist, who is also a part of that people who are
33 supposed to be drafting the Staff analysis to reflect the uses
34 and the traditions of the people out here. And after that has
35 been compiled, you have the opportunity to again go forward, to
36 amend it, to withdraw it, to defer it, et cetera.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you Ida.

41
42 MR. GRIEST: Noatak and Squirrel.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's what I would do, Noatak and
45 Squirrel. We have the option of pulling back if there's not
46 enough justification. You know, I don't want to blow smoke in
47 the wind like I said. But I certainly want to try to do
48 something to take care of the problem or a potential problem
49 that could happen next year or the year after.

50

0091
1 Anyone wish to make a motion?
2
3 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.
6
7 MR. GRIEST: I'd like to make a motion that we approve
8 the concept of closing sport hunting and other uses on the
9 Noatak and Squirrel River areas of moose with the provision
10 that if the biological basis is not there, that we -- with the
11 provision that we can withdraw.
12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Is there a second?
14
15 MS. WARD: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. He struck the biological part
18 so we can go ahead with the.....
19
20 MR. GRIEST: Noatak and Squirrel.
21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:anthropological -- Noatak and
23 Squirrel River?
24
25 MR. GRIEST: Yes.
26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's have some discussion on the
28 motion. Jim, you had a question?
29
30 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and Game. The motion
31 spoke about sport hunting in these areas, was that just for
32 moose or is that for caribou and bear as well.
33
34 MR. STONEY: Moose.
35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Just for moose.
37
38 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay, just a point of clarification.
39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Maybe we want to tighten that up a
41 little bit here.
42
43 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: That definition might need some work
44 on exactly who -- I mean the resolution says commercial sport
45 hunt?
46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right.
48
49 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: I mean does that mean non-resident,
50 does that mean.....

0092
1 MR. GRIEST: Oh, just non-resident.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Non-residents of a unit.
4
5 MR. GRIEST: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Of Unit 23.
8
9 MR. GRIEST: Yeah.
10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, are we clear on that?
12
13 MR. GRIEST: Yeah, non-residents of Unit 23.
14
15 MS. DEWHURST: Basically you're saying the same thing
16 as what was in the sheep?
17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right.
19
20 MS. DEWHURST: It's closed to all non-Federally
21 qualified subsistence users.
22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right.
24
25 MS. DEWHURST: Okay.
26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right. That was a clarification on
28 that motion there just so that it comes out right. Any other
29 discussion? If there's no other discussion, all those in favor
30 of the motion signify by saying aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: AYE.
33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.
35
36 (No opposing votes)
37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Unanimous. Thank you very much for
39 the help on the moose here. Now, let's move on to the muskox.
40 Muskox. Donna. Oh, we already went through that?
41
42 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I don't think you need to take any
43 action today.
44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All right. We don't need to take
46 any action, uh?
47
48 MS. DEWHURST: Not that I'm aware of.
49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. How about fisheries, we don't

0093

1 need to take action on that either and we already talked about
2 it.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: The next one I think would be c&t.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, Item B, Regional Council
9 member training materials. Barb.

10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'll do that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The orientation you'll give?

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes. (In Inupiat).

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Very good, thank you. Now, we are
18 back at agency reports. Anybody have questions of Barb? Park
19 Service, the National Park Service, SRC/RAC, Clarence Summers.

20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, since we don't have
22 anyone leaving from the Kobuk Valley and Gates this year, their
23 terms are up in 1999, so your Council won't be acting in
24 putting in new members into those commissions until next fall.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Brad. On the sheep.

27
28 MR. SHULTS: Well, you've heard enough from me. I'll
29 make it really quick. We're proceeding ahead with the sheep
30 research project. We need to talk to some more folks. I'm
31 meeting with other biologists in Anchorage on about the second
32 week of October and you're not going to be in a vacuum, we'll
33 let you know before we do any kind of field work. We're
34 willing to work with everybody involved. That's going to
35 happen over the next four years. Enough said on that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The recommendation from Mr.
38 Armstrong, somebody flying with you when you count sheep? That
39 will be taken into consideration?

40
41 MR. SHULTS: Actually people have gone along. I think
42 Victor Karmun from Kotzebue has been along on surveys, we had
43 Victor with us last fall for moose surveys over in the Kobuk
44 country, too.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The only problem I have with
47 Victor's counting is I never seen so many sheep in my life; you
48 know, I can't believe that.

49
50 MR. SHULTS: Well, we wake him up every once in a

0094

1 while.

2

3 The opportunity always exists and certainly on this
4 sheep project we hope to have as many people as we can
5 involved, you know, on the ground work and that sort of thing.
6 And we're open to that and we'll let you know when we're doing
7 stuff. And if you have people or yourselves who want to go
8 along on a survey flight, we can accommodate that.

9

10 The other thing that we've been working in is trying to
11 get more school stuff involved. Last fall we had five science
12 classes come in to cut up wolverines with us which was great.
13 And the Fish and Game collaring projects for caribou in the
14 Kobuk this year, we were able to bring up six kids from
15 Kotzebue. And then they also arranged for kids from Ambler to
16 come down. So we're more than willing to do that. And like I
17 said, I think that that would be great. And then it's no
18 secret as to what we're up to.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

21

22 MR. SHULTS: Really quick on the wolverine stuff. If
23 there's a quick message you could take home with you is that
24 we're really interested in getting wolverine carcasses again
25 this winter. And tell folks to hold on to them and give us a
26 call, we'll get in touch with them and get them from them.
27 We'd really like to pick that up. We're doing -- the other
28 thing I'd like to add is we'd also be interested in getting
29 wolf carcasses too, if people wanted. And along the same lines
30 of we're going to work with the Department of Fish and Game a
31 little bit to start looking at whether distemper plays a large
32 role in wolf and wolverine populations here. So that's
33 something that we're working on a little bit, so save your
34 carcasses and let folks know and we'll do the dirty work to get
35 them back to Kotzebue.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Excuse me, a minute.

38

39 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, one thing about the wolverine
40 carcasses is that either they -- people who catch them can hold
41 on to them call, we can come pick them up in the plane or just
42 (inaudible - away from microphone).

43

44 MR. SHULTS: We've had great response on that so we'd
45 like to keep that up and keep it going. Other than that I
46 still plan on having somebody look at moose brows in as many
47 places in the unit as we can get them to this winter to look at
48 nutritional value, what they have to eat out there. And we're
49 also going to be looking at calving site selection of moose in
50 the Noatak. You know, where do they go to have their calves,

0095

1 and you know, is it related to why they're dying and that sort
2 of thing.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions? Thank you Brad.
5 Anybody else in the Park Service have anything to report?
6 Dave.

7

8 MS. SPIRITES: Yeah, this winter we're going to be
9 beginning scoping for commercial services plan for Noatak
10 determining how many guides are necessary and appropriate and
11 we will be working with the Chair -- be holding some public
12 meetings to solicit opinions and how many. When we first
13 started licensing guides, they were -- through attrition we're
14 down to four now, and we both want to decide how many and then
15 conditions that should be imposed on them. So I just want to
16 let you know that we'll be working with you on that throughout
17 this year.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. Anybody else from
20 the Park Service? Okay, number 5, is Alaska Department of Fish
21 and Game. First off we have fisheries from Mr. Kohler.

22

23 MR. KOHLER: Yes, I'm Tom Kohler, I'm with the
24 Commercial Fisheries Division here in Kotzebue. The commercial
25 harvest from the Kotzebue district in '98 was 55,900 chum
26 salmon, 210,000 chinook and 349 dolly varden. This was greatly
27 below the preseason forecast and only 45 of a possible 203
28 permits participated. The greatest number was 26 in any one
29 period. This is the lowest participation since 1967 and
30 continues a downward trend that's been going on for the last
31 five years. The only buyer present was Northwest -- North
32 Alaska Fisheries and they requested prior to the season that
33 the openers be limited to 12 hours and close at 6:00 o'clock so
34 that they could take advantage of backhauls on the existing air
35 carriers and this occurred.

36

37 There was a total of 26 openers starting the 9th of
38 July until they quite buying on the 18th of August. So the
39 total fishing time was 312 hours or 57 percent of the long-term
40 average. Chum salmon weren't weighed but they were assumed to
41 weigh eight pounds and an estimated 470,000 pounds were
42 purchased at 15 cents a pound. 2,900 pounds of king salmon
43 were purchased a dollar a pound and 2,600 pounds of dolly
44 varden were purchased at 20 cents a pound. This comes up with
45 a total of \$70,578 paid to the fishermen or an average of about
46 \$1,569 per permit holder. If you take this as an example --
47 each fishermen fished every opener and burned 21 and a half
48 gallons of gasoline he lost money.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What, is there not enough fish?

1 MR. KOHLER: Obviously there were not enough fish. The
2 catch was the second lowest since 1968. The escapement -- the
3 only indications we have of escapement were the Kobuk test
4 fishery. Our indices up there were the second lowest since
5 operation of the program and just above 1963. In 1963 under
6 good conditions they thought that the escapement goals were
7 just met. Surveys this year were very inconclusive. There
8 weren't any conducted until post-spawning under poor conditions
9 and it was estimated that less than two-thirds of the desired
10 number was observed. A lot of this has to do with, you know,
11 most areas couldn't be surveyed and all the carcasses had been
12 washed away at that point due to the flooding conditions.

13
14 This is -- this value of \$70,000 is roughly 10 percent
15 of the long-term historical average of the income to the
16 fishermen for this area.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It sounds like we need to ask for a
19 closure of False Pass.

20
21 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Why not.

22
23 MR. KOHLER: I guess you can ask for anything you want.
24 The egg structure of the fish and the distribution of the
25 fishing effort probably indicated that the Kobuk River was hit
26 much harder than the Noatak. The scale samples taken in the
27 escapement of the test fishery were almost identical to the age
28 structure of the fish taken in the commercial fishery and the
29 age structure on the Noatak. Escapement was quite different.
30 This is what leads me to believe that the majority of fish and
31 also the early closure, the majority of the fish were taken out
32 of the Kobuk River. The age structure itself, shows that there
33 was pretty much normal percentage of four your old fish, the
34 five year component which has been dominate in recent years was
35 much below average and the both the three and the six year olds
36 were quite a bit above average. And there was a seven year old
37 component which normally is rather rare made up six-tenths of a
38 percent which is rather unheard of in this fishery.

39
40 Any specific questions?

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, none.

43
44 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I got one. Now, I know like
45 you said there were periods of 12 hour fishing, right?

46
47 MR. KOHLER: Right.

48
49 MR. STONEY: This season? Why couldn't they fish for
50 24 hours?

0097

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The buyers asked for it.

2

3 MR. KOHLER: The buyer -- there was only one buyer
4 present and he only had very limited capacity.

5

6 MR. STONEY: Oh, okay.

7

8 MR. KOHLER: And there was very low participation most
9 of the time. During several openers there were only two people
10 fishing and he felt that this wasn't economical anymore so he
11 quit buying.

12

13 MR. STONEY: Okay, thank you.

14

15 MR. KOHLER: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Jim Magdanz, Subsistence
18 update.

19

20 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman and members of the Council,
21 thank you. I'm Jim Magdanz with the Division of Subsistence.
22 Susan Georgette is in Nome to attend the Nome Regional Council
23 meeting yesterday and to attend some salmon meetings there
24 today. For the last five years the State has operated its
25 subsistence office in Nome and effective July 1 we moved that
26 operation back to Kotzebue. We still cover both, the Bering
27 Straits/Nenana region, but instead of doing it out of Nome, now
28 we'll be back to how we were before '93 and covering it out of
29 Kotzebue.

30

31 The mix of projects that we're involved in are similar,
32 however. Susan is setting up the salmon surveys that we've
33 doing now for -- this is the fifth year where we go to most of
34 the communities in the region and do household surveys and
35 estimate salmon harvests. Last year we had the kids in Noorvik
36 involved in that. The high school science teacher put his
37 science class on the project and so we worked with kids doing
38 some of the surveys. In every village where we do salmon
39 surveys we have at least one local surveyor involved in the
40 project, typically one of our technicians and one or two or
41 three local people do the surveys.

42

43 This winter we'll also be involved -- Susan's the lead
44 on this project, water fowl surveys in several communities in
45 cooperation with Maniilaq and she and Inig Shite will be
46 organizing that effort. And we also are talking with wildlife
47 conservation and other agencies about a caribou survey project.
48 You've heard a little bit about this already today, modeled on
49 the water fowl and salmon survey efforts where we would do
50 house-to-house surveys to try to estimate caribou harvest.

0098

1 Susan will be the lead on that one.

2

3 I'll be working, for the next several months, finishing
4 up a study of subsistence in Wales and Deering, where we're
5 looking at how families work together. We usually do our
6 surveys on the basis of households as the unit of analysis and
7 we've always felt that you can't understand subsistence by
8 looking at one person or one house, you need to look at groups
9 of households, families, cooperating. So we're doing this in
10 Deering and Wales.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What if they don't get any?

13

14 MR. MAGDANZ: Pardon?

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What if they don't get any?

17

18 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, you mean the household or a family.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, no, whales; is that what you
21 were looking at?

22

23 MR. MAGDANZ: No, Wales. The community of Wales.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Wales.

26

27 MR. MAGDANZ: We did surveys in Wales and we did
28 surveys in Deering. And this project is supported by the
29 National Park Service and we're working in cooperation with
30 them on that. Also this winter I'll be working on some multi-
31 media programming work on natural history subjects, a project
32 that started with the School Districts where we were bringing
33 information into the classroom on CD-Rom using oral history
34 information from Ruthie Sampson's files collecting some
35 additional oral information. It's a program that uses Inupiat
36 and English. That mixes traditional knowledge and Western
37 knowledge about species. So the Park Service has been involved
38 in that and I'll be working on that this winter also.

39

40 Just in general issues we're very concerned about, one,
41 the continuing problem of coordinating State and Federal
42 management. And we've spent a fair amount of time in
43 consultation with other agencies and with the public on issues
44 like the sheep management, and more recently we've been talking
45 a lot about how to effectively respond to concerns about user
46 conflicts in the Upper Kobuk River. So those things are on our
47 plate even though they're not identified right now with
48 specific projects, they may be in the future, Mr. Chair.

49

50 Thank you.

0099

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you Jim. Any questions?
2 Thank you. State Board, Board of Game. First question, Susan,
3 are you going to back door us on anything this year?
4

5 MS. BUCKNELL: There's not much -- thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. My name is Susan Bucknell, Board Support Section, Fish
7 and Game. And in your packet, I put the Board's schedule for
8 the next few years. The Board operates on a cycle two years
9 for the Board of Game, three years for the Board of Fisheries.
10 They schedule different regions around the state and different
11 issues on this schedule so they can try and have some sort of
12 orderly process and let people know ahead of time what's going
13 on. This is -- this has everything on one page of all the
14 Board meetings scheduled for the next couple of years anywhere.
15 The next two pages are the same information, just a little more
16 detail and a different format.
17

18 The Arctic region is scheduled next year for game
19 proposals and the year after that for fisheries proposals. But
20 I want to stress that the Boards can take proposals up out of
21 cycle and that they have special provisions for taking up
22 anything that relates to subsistence out of cycle. They will
23 try and deal with it right away. It is a long process though.
24 They have to have -- at one meeting they have to accept a
25 proposal so that they can notify for public comment and then it
26 will be at the next meeting they can actually address the
27 proposal itself. But they can take them up out of cycle so
28 don't be discouraged by this schedule.
29

30 Last year the Arctic region was up for both Board of
31 Game and Board of Fisheries, so we were pretty busy. This year
32 it's Southeast and Southcentral that are taking most of the
33 attention and a lot of the budget too. Norton Sound has a lot
34 of fisheries issues. For this region, what's scheduled is only
35 whether to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts and whether
36 to reauthorize the brown bear subsistence hunts for Unit 23.
37 That's about all that's scheduled right now to come before
38 advisory committees for this region for this year. Advisory
39 committee's component of the Board's budget was cut 40 percent
40 last year. Because of all the other meetings besides advisory
41 committee meetings that everybody's concerned with like the
42 Western Arctic Co-Management and the Muskox Planning meetings,
43 we're looking for other funding sources. We will be able to
44 get some money, I think, from Boards for advisory committee
45 travel to that kind of meeting but I am looking for other
46 funding sources for that.
47

48 There's two more things in your little Board's packet
49 and one is the proposal form that the State Boards use to
50 address issues and there's six different questions on that

00100

1 form. They really need that format if you are thinking of
2 submitting a proposal. Addressing those six questions will
3 really help them deal with it. And the last page is just the
4 State Alaska Administrative Code, what they said when they
5 established the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee system.
6 And there's sort of a sense, recently anyway, with Boards that
7 this can be interpreted pretty widely to really address a wide
8 range of issues. It doesn't necessarily have to be something
9 that's already written up in the game booklets but it can
10 address a lot of different things.

11
12 And that's it, Mr. Chair, any questions?

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions? Thank you.

15
16 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Lee Anne Ayers, Wildlife.

19
20 MS. AYERS: Well, there's just a few points that didn't
21 get brought up before so I'll be real brief. The first one, in
22 regard to the muskox permits, I think Ken mentioned the two
23 State permits were issued to residents in Deering. And I guess
24 just to add to him about the Tier II system and how it worked
25 out, we had very few applicants from outside the region for the
26 muskox Tier II permits. There were a number of people from
27 Kotzebue and areas that applied for the 23 permits. One thing
28 that we found with the Tier II system in addition to the
29 economic advantage that villages and Kotzebue and Nome had in
30 this region, also previous hunt experience played a big role.
31 So people who had gotten Federal permits were favored by the
32 system. The recipients of the State permits were Jim and Ron
33 Motto who had received Federal permits before. So that was, I
34 think, one of the reasons that they remained in the region was
35 both the economic advantage and the hunt history advantage that
36 people up here will continue to have, especially those who have
37 gotten Federal permits for muskox. Those two people just out
38 of interest of finding out where they were planning on hunting
39 and when, both of them I was -- it was interesting to hear that
40 their concern was that they did not want to hunt the muskox
41 right near the village. That that was something that they felt
42 people in the village liked to see the big herd that was right
43 behind Deering. And that there were a number of small groups
44 of bulls that were just up the road around Utica Creek that
45 they were planning on hunting. And they decided that the best
46 time for them to hunt would be in November. They were going to
47 wait until after the rut and they still had access. So just
48 for planning purposes, that information might come in helpful.

49
50 The next item with the caribou is we're planning on

00101

1 conducting a photo census this coming summer so there'll be
2 another population estimate for the Western Arctic Herd. I
3 guess another update is that we have the latest reports of
4 where the herd is moving. There have been a number of caribou
5 that are around Granite Mountain and Monument Mountain and the
6 reindeer herders have been fairly active in trying to monitor
7 that. And right now it's looking like they'll be swinging back
8 out on the Seward Peninsula or that situation will come up
9 again this winter.

10
11 Oh, I guess the last thing, in talking about some of
12 the issues on numbers of hunters and user group issues, there
13 -- the State basically, out of request from this region are
14 going to reinstate the state wide caribou harvest system.
15 Which is the -- the numbers I gave you were for moose hunters.
16 I couldn't give you total hunters in the Squirrel because we
17 didn't have the caribou hunting component. We will next year.
18 That system will be back in place and I think that should be
19 real helpful for your analysis of some of those issues.

20
21 And I think that's all the additional updates I have
22 for you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. We were talking about the
25 surveys for the moose, are you guys -- we asked that some
26 accurate numbers be given to us for the proposal we submitted,
27 are you going to be working with the folks here?

28
29 MS. AYERS: Oh, sure. If there's any request for any
30 of that back data we sure will make available whatever we have.
31 I will tell you with -- you know, Johnny Walker mentioned the
32 past surveys back in the '70s, that methodology used back then
33 is not necessarily comparable to what we have today. A lot of
34 that was flown -- it was moose per number of hours flown and so
35 it's not necessarily repeatable for us. So you'll have to be
36 looking at some other parameters as well on that. But sure,
37 whatever we have as far as historical data in that area is
38 available.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On the same token, you know, we took
41 those numbers and -- the State took those numbers and
42 established bag limits and seasons. Bert -- or Donna, you had
43 a question?

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: I was just curious. You were saying
46 that to reinstate the caribou harvest system, does that just
47 mean they're going to start looking at the tag returns where we
48 have.....

49
50 MS. AYERS: Right. In the past people had -- were

00102

1 required to pickup harvest overlays. Only people who
2 voluntarily returned those, those were forwarded on to the area
3 offices.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: And usually nothing done with them?

6
7 MS. AYERS: Right.

8
9 MS. DEWHURST: I mean they haven't been summarized?

10
11 MS. AYERS: There was no follow-up like there is with
12 the moose.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: Right.

15
16 MS. AYERS: So it was an incomplete data set. A number
17 of areas in the state simply weren't using that information for
18 management. We made a case that although we're not using those
19 numbers to manage caribou, seasons and bag limits, we are using
20 it in a number of other management issues. Looking at
21 different trends and transportation use was one issue that was
22 other parts of the state.....

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: So that will be a statewide thing?

25
26 MS. AYERS: It will be state wide.

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: That will be great.

29
30 MS. AYERS: Yeah. And it will be handled just the same
31 way moose are. There may be some differences in the reporting
32 date. We might not have the data until later since the caribou
33 season is open year-round. There may be a little bit of delay
34 there. But it will be back in the system.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond, you had a question?

37
38 MR. STONEY: What is your actual estimate count on the
39 caribou lately?

40
41 MS. AYERS: Well, the last photo census was 463,000.

42
43 MR. STONEY: 463,000?

44
45 MS. AYERS: Right. And that's a minimum count.

46
47 MR. STONEY: Okay.

48
49 MS. AYERS: It would be higher. The short yearling
50 counts and looking at recruitment and composition counts, we

00103

1 estimate the herd has slowed down its growth to about two
2 percent. So it's pretty much stable.

3
4 MR. STONEY: Okay.

5
6 MS. AYERS: There has been a number of, you know, one
7 of the issues that have come up lately has been concerns about
8 diseased caribou. This year at Onion Portage when we were
9 looking at animals, the weight range and, you know, amount of
10 fat on bulls and cows seemed about average. The one thing that
11 really impressed us was the large size of calves. Calves were
12 just -- they were very healthy and larger than normal.

13
14 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

15
16 MS. AYERS: But adults kind of varied. But now we have
17 been getting reports, especially from Point Hope about skinny
18 caribou. And some reports from Kiana, your area, about some
19 animals that are showing some symptoms within the body cavity
20 of infection. Not a lot of brucellosis sign so far this year.

21
22 MR. STONEY: Finally my question, the bag limit is five
23 a day on the State land and 15 a day in the Federal land?

24
25 MS. AYERS: That's right.

26
27 MR. STONEY: So I can get 20 caribou, five from the
28 State and 15 from the Federal.

29
30 MR. AYERS: I think that the State is cumulative, and
31 they're not added to the bag limit. But you if you could get
32 that many in your boat, by gosh.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Skinny caribou mean that there are
35 too many muskox. That's what the North Slope people tell me.
36 Thank you. That's the reports. One other question that we
37 forgot to ask, maybe I can ask Dave here, the State hunt on the
38 sheep, do you know anything about it? Or are they going to
39 propose to keep their sheep hunt in the books?

40
41 MR. SPIRITES: Dave Spirites. I guess it's my
42 understanding that the sheep hunt is on the books for this
43 year. And so if no action is taken by the State, we'll be back
44 in the same conflict -- but the State or the Federal Board will
45 be back in the same conflict again this summer.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, without -- if our proposal is
48 acted on, then we're going to be in the same boat yeah.

49
50 MR. SPIRITES: And so far we've discussed for dealing

00104

1 with the Federal Board and with the Federal system. There's
2 still an issue about communication with the State of Alaska and
3 the Board of Game and what action we might be trying to get
4 them to take so that we can better coordinate our harvest.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. Lee Anne.

7

8 MS. AYERS: I'll just throw in the little bit I know
9 about the status of things. Of the 11 permits that went out
10 after the Federal land was announced closed. We polled all the
11 people who had the 11 permits. Of those 11, four intended to
12 still come up and hunt. Of those four, three actually did.
13 One actually came up twice due to bad weather. And no sheep
14 were taken. So that's -- I should have added that in earlier.
15 As far as what scenarios would happen next year, the up -- we
16 have -- like you're suggesting with the moose, the up to 20
17 quota. That 11 is an up to number. To adjust that or change
18 from 11 to a lower number, we have that flexibility without
19 going through the Board of Game. That's something that we
20 announce -- it has to be decided prior to the publication of
21 the drawing permit supplement, which occurs in May. So that's
22 the time frame for working together on a joint decision of how
23 to allocate sheep in the DeLongs. That can be done, you know,
24 within the agencies here, but it has to be done prior to that
25 publication of that supplement.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Keep in mind we want them all.

28

29 MS. AYERS: Well, one of the issues that came up in our
30 discussions before was to look at the harvest this year and
31 then sit down and discuss it. So it was my understanding that
32 we were going to proceed with the situation the way it was this
33 year but also look at the amount of harvest that was deflected
34 from the Bairds up to the DeLongs which was your concern. So I
35 think that we still have plenty of time to do that. And I
36 think that's probably the next step. Once the winter hunt for
37 sheep in the Bairds is actually completed. And there should be
38 a window, there won't be a big window, but there'll be a little
39 bit of time to do that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. Jim.

42

43 MR. MAGDANZ: Just real briefly, Jim Magdanz. One the
44 issue the State will be interested in is Kivalina's success in
45 the subsistence hunt since they're the community that is most
46 likely to take sheep on State lands. And how they might be
47 impacted by non-resident or non-region harvest and so that's an
48 issue that we're kind of paying attention to.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If they take the nine, would you be

00105

1 willing to give the people in Kivalina the drawing permit that
2 we're allowed?

3

4 MR. MAGDANZ: I don't follow the drawing permit,
5 Willie?

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I mean if you allowed nine for
8 subsistence and they take all nine and you still have the four
9 that haven't been hunted yet, what are you going to do with
10 them?

11

12 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm still not following the.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: He doesn't follow me?

15

16 MS. AYERS: If Kivalina, this winter took all nine that
17 were available, actually only, you know, three and five or the
18 nine that were available on the State land, then the following
19 year there wouldn't be any drawings. If the need went from the
20 low number to a higher number.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you're just going to keep the
23 four or five?

24

25 MS. AYERS: The 11 was based on the Bairds and DeLongs.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm giving her some trick questions
28 here. Trying to get the State to admit that they didn't want
29 to give us anymore than what they think we need.

30

31 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, back to my original comment, which
32 is the State -- you know, I'm -- I think our division is very
33 interested in the impacts of this whole scenario and the people
34 of Kivalina who are the ones most dependent on State resources
35 here. And we think that their interests need to be considered
36 and we want to track that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. That takes care of
39 all the reports, I hope. Anybody else have any reports that we
40 missed? Look at that, none. We have two more items here that
41 we need to take care of. One is the user conflict. As I
42 understand it, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has
43 \$30,000 that they can use to look at the issue. And in
44 previous discussions with the Park Service they would like to
45 visit this issue. Now, that we've seen this conflict in the
46 Upper Kobuk in the Gates of the Arctic, I think we need to look
47 at the issue. I think we need to come up with some kind of a
48 solution to -- not solution, maybe recommendations to try to
49 limit the user conflicts that are occurring in our region that
50 have historically been occurring and the potential for anything

00106

1 worse than has happened before right now. So if anybody has
2 any suggestions how we can do it from the agencies I'm willing
3 to hear it. I think we should go ahead and ask the Department
4 of Fish and Game to begin the process and look at maybe a
5 meeting sometime in the middle or late November.

6
7 Anybody have any comments towards that? Sandy.

8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll start by saying I don't claim to
10 know or really have a good feel for the details of the user
11 conflict that you speak of. And I haven't actually done some
12 work in the region since the mid-'80s but not so much
13 currently. So I don't speak with great knowledge of all --
14 you know, what the problems are right now. But one observation
15 that I make is that there probably -- I would speculate there
16 are different components of the problems in different areas
17 along the river. Kobuk River is a long river. And probably
18 different things happen in different places. So there may be
19 some down river problems and they might be different than some
20 up river problems and there might be some overlap too. And so
21 my take is that having sort of all the players, you know,
22 stakeholders is the word we're using in the '90s to describe
23 all the different agencies, State and Federal, the villages,
24 the NANA region, Maniilaq, et cetera. I think trying to get as
25 many people with different perspectives, different management
26 responsibilities, different ownership, I'd encourage you to
27 cast a wide net and bring in a wide group of people. So that's
28 one general comment.

29
30 The other things I think of, just quickly, I would
31 speculate that the solution to the problems are probably bigger
32 than just the Board of Game, the Board of Fish and the Federal
33 Subsistence Board. The regulatory boards may well play a role
34 in solving the underlying problems, but I will speculate that
35 the boards can't solve them all. That you may well need the
36 various land owners, State, Federal and Native to undertake
37 different actions on their own lands where they can exert
38 control to accomplish things that you may -- maybe that would
39 make things better. Another way to put that is no one -- I'm
40 going to bet that nobody holds all the cards so you need people
41 to understand the problem and then make their contribution to
42 the solutions that you come up with.

43
44 And then I guess the last one is that having spent a
45 fair bit of my life being a planner and being paid to do things
46 like this, which I currently don't do.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You want to do it?

49
50 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, I'm not volunteering. No, I

00107

1 don't think people like myself come in and solve problems. I
2 think at best we ask good questions and local people solve the
3 problems. But what I was going to say is that clearly there
4 are some short-term problems and you've talked about some of
5 those today. Some problems that you have right now that bother
6 people. And the petition from Noorvik's a good example of
7 that. So my last suggestion and I'll stop is, you might think
8 about trying to identify the short-term problems that are
9 really hurt right now and you want to fix and then also make a
10 list of long-term problems that may take several years to
11 ferret out and come up with solutions.

12
13 I'll stop there. I don't want to sound like a school
14 lecture or anything.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I would like to suggest is take
17 this a little bit further and -- well, we need somebody to
18 coordinate this thing and put it together. Bring people in
19 from the villages, the hunters now, I don't want to see any
20 NANA board members or Maniilaq -- I mean that don't hunt, you
21 know. I want to see these people that actually go out and do
22 the actual hunting and see the conflicts to come to this
23 meeting and to talk about it. A lot of times in our meetings
24 we have administrators in Maniilaq or NANA that talk for us, it
25 just drives me up the wall, you know. Because I know they
26 don't even know how to cut fish or skin a muskrat, you know,
27 but they speak pretty good about subsistence. They talk pretty
28 good about it but in actuality they don't even know how to do
29 it and that drives me up the wall. But I want to see these
30 people that actually go out and do these things, come into
31 Kotzebue from all the villages and talk about the problems that
32 they see out there and help us find a solution. Whether it's
33 -- and I know we're not going to satisfy everybody. I want to
34 see that we head off the problem before it just gets worse than
35 firing a gun in the air. And that is what has happened.

36
37 I talked a little bit about it this morning when I say
38 the critical factors of the migration of the caribou. Now,
39 when we see sport hunters up in the mountains, that turns them.
40 And some people get -- miss out on caribou hunting when the
41 migration is altered. That's an example.

42
43 But how can we do this? Who can we -- get the ball
44 rolling here? Do you want to start it?

45
46 MS. BUCKNELL: Actually I was raising my hand for
47 question, not to volunteer. I was just going to say -- this is
48 Susan Bucknell, Fish and Game. I think it was Jim Dau that
49 sort of started the process to get the \$30,000 so I don't know
50 if he would want to voice on that or have some ideas or if you

00108

1 talked to him.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it's a start. What I intend
4 to do is write a letter, with the members concurrence here, to
5 Jim to get it started. But I'm looking for participation or if
6 you've got any money to kick in to help us with this from the
7 Federal agencies. That's what I'm asking. Yes, sir.

8

9 MR. MOW: Jeff Mow from Gates of the Arctic. I just
10 thought I'd mention that, you know, we've been working with the
11 Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic for
12 several years on this issue. And we have had some of our SRC
13 meetings actually in Shungnak. We've also had other meetings
14 where we meet with the people in the Upper Kobuk region and
15 we've talked specifically about some of these user conflicts.
16 And some of the things we have begun to work on, at least, you
17 know, sort of through a public education with the hunters that
18 get flown in through the Park or Preserve areas, for example,
19 is you know, educating them about camping on the north side of
20 the river. Proper catching -- you know, catch and release
21 methods for the sheep, you know, just trying to educate them a
22 little bit more. We realize there's room for more -- we can do
23 better on that and we've got some ideas we're currently working
24 on. But you know, we sort of tried to extend ourselves and I
25 think there's opportunities for us to -- you know, I started
26 some conversations with Raymond here about some things and
27 maybe working through some of the Purcell things or the NANA
28 interests. And you know, Jim mentioned that with Fish and
29 Game, you know, specific to the Upper Kobuk region, I think,
30 you know, we're beginning dialogue but it certainly has a ways
31 to go. But you know it might be a way to bring a group --
32 interagency, interdisciplinary group together to address it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Dave.

35

36 MR. SPIRITES: Leslie mentioned earlier about the
37 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Group. And I think it's an issue
38 which is probably bigger than just the Northwest Arctic RAC.
39 For instance the Western Arctic Herd probably covers a quarter
40 of the state and effects 50 villages. And there's actually an
41 ongoing effort. Pete Schaffer representing Maniilaq and John
42 Trent representing ADF&G are co-chairs of that effort. And you
43 might want to consider how we can -- and that group also has
44 representatives from BLM, Fish and Wildlife and National Park
45 Service. We might want to -- the RAC might want to consider
46 how it might join efforts with that group in addressing this
47 issue and figuring out a way to get the participation that you
48 seek from the villages and actual subsistence users in the
49 villages in trying to solicit their input and how to proceed.

50

00109

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Maybe we can keep in mind to
2 bring that up in that meeting Leslie.

3
4 MS. KERR: Yep, or Dave, he'll be there, too.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: Willie, one other odd thought I
9 didn't think to mention it a moment ago. But there could be
10 some role for Borough government in this, in that, the Borough,
11 I believe encompasses all of the Kobuk River area. I'm not
12 particularly familiar with, you know, powers of this Borough
13 and -- but anyway, it's just a thought. That there's another
14 organization which is the Borough government. You know whether
15 it's a good idea or not.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, they propose an ordinance that
18 the Federal government said is unconstitutional. So I don't
19 know how far you want to go with that. And the State
20 government, too, by the way.

21
22 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If it's okay with the Council
25 members, I can go ahead and draft a letter with some of these
26 Staff members to help me to Jim Dau to suggest how he can spend
27 his \$30,000.

28
29 We got one more issue, all right, before the next time
30 and place of the meeting. Let's just take five minutes here
31 and then we can come back.

32
33 (Off record)

34 (On record)

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's get back in order. I
37 overlooked one issue that the Staff members from Federal
38 Subsistence office had asked and that's the c&t options. You
39 see them over there. If you have any questions of Helen,
40 she'll answer them, otherwise what do we want to do? Pretty
41 simple.

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That was very quick.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I mean they're right there. I mean
46 no c&t, no change they use the eight factors, modified factors.
47 What are they, if you have any suggestions or if we have any
48 recommendations. Basically my feeling is that as long as
49 there's no c&t, any eligible subsistence user is welcome to
50 shoot the animals that we have. But if there's a shortage, I

00110

1 think there should be a c&t. I think if we want to limit
2 people we can use a c&t. That's my understanding and that's
3 pretty straightforward to me. Unless the Council wants some
4 changes or recommendations, you know.....

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Could I give a little background?

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Just a little.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just a little, okay. What's
11 happening with your recommendation so that -- and this is in
12 your book under Tab I. And all the Council members should have
13 received this back in August, it was sent out August 10th, the
14 letter and then a short two-page paper.

15
16 There was a task force formed last spring at the
17 request of the Regional Council Chairs, and that task force
18 which is composed of a number of people from Staff Committee as
19 well as from the -- three Council Chairs and a member of our
20 solicitor. That committee spent a fair amount of time this
21 summer going over the problem of c&t. And I'll just -- if you
22 want to know more about why they did it I can get into that but
23 since we need to be brief I'll just go forward.

24
25 What they're doing is they've asked all Regional
26 Council Chairs for their input. That information will be taken
27 back to the committee in November. The committee will make a
28 recommendation to the Board. And if the Board then so chooses,
29 they can make a proposal to change the regulation. Part of the
30 regulations that this is in is Subpart B, I think. And at that
31 point it would come back to you again.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, it would come back, okay.

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. For your further input. But
36 -- so what we're looking for is a decision from this Council as
37 to what it is they'd like to have happen. And all the Councils
38 have been asked so far. If you want me to go over some of the
39 other discussion, I can, I mean it's up to you. Do you want me
40 to discuss the options?

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any suggestions or
43 wishes?

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Can I just go through the options
46 would that be all right?

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Or would you like me to go through

00111

1 the options? Okay. There -- the eight factors are how we do
2 it now. If -- and I know there are copies of the eight factors
3 up there on the table if you wanted to see those. Those were
4 adopted from the State and it's been what we've been doing for
5 awhile. We've had some problems with it because we haven't
6 been doing c&t determinations the way we have said we would do
7 them. In some cases we've given c&t to communities who don't
8 have any history or traditional, local knowledge or anything
9 and they still have gotten c&t. It's also been a problem for
10 us on how to deal with reintroduced species.

11
12 The eight factors were designed to be somewhat flexible
13 so that they would -- you didn't have to meet all of the eight
14 factors if you didn't -- if we chose not to. One of the
15 options would be to maybe modify them. We could do two or
16 three of them. We could do five of them. You know, it would
17 be up to the Councils to decide that. Another option that the
18 committee came up with is the Council recommendation option.
19 This one is meant to be very flexible. It would mean that the
20 Councils would come up with how they wanted to do c&t. They
21 could create their own criteria. They could decide to do it
22 only when there's a resource shortage. They could do it only
23 based on local knowledge. They could ask for analysis from the
24 Staff. And it could vary from time-to-time. I mean it would
25 be very flexible and it would be the Regional Council's
26 decision how to do it. There would be a lot of -- if the
27 Regional Council chose, you know, to just say that we know that
28 these people in this area use this resource and maybe they
29 choose not to have much analysis done at all, that's the most
30 flexible one of them. The other one that -- there is some
31 people on the committee who are quite fond of is this unit and
32 surrounding units option. And that would be sort of a blanket
33 c&t, so that, for example, in this unit everybody in Unit 23
34 would have c&t for all resources available in Unit 23 and all
35 of the surrounding units would also have c&t so that people
36 could come in. Now, in some cases it could be -- that would be
37 a small number of people. Now, in your case you'd have Unit
38 26, you'd have Unit 24 and then 21 and 22. You'd have a pretty
39 large part of the state, and that might be okay here. It might
40 not work in some other areas because it would mean that
41 everybody in the unit would get c&t and you might have places
42 like logging camps in Southeast or Prudhoe Bay, you know,
43 places like that that there might be some exceptions that
44 people would want made. You could do any combination of these.
45 I mean you could kind of make up your own option you might
46 want. The Seward Peninsula had some discussion of some other
47 ideas that they had that were presented to them as well. Like
48 only looking at c&t in an area instead of by resource and
49 basing it on tribal use areas, something like that. You know
50 there's some problems with doing that because use areas

00112

1 fluctuate over time.

2

3 Anyway, those are the options. We feel like this is a
4 really important and very critical part of our program, making
5 c&t determinations. I have to say there are some people who
6 feel that we shouldn't do them at all, and that's an option,
7 too. And if we don't do them at all, then the time -- what
8 would happen if we didn't do them at all is that if there were
9 a resource shortage, then we would move into Section .805
10 analysis and at that time you would have -- in times of
11 shortage you would look at the people -- and this is
12 specifically spelled out in ANILCA, so we would be required by
13 law to do it this way, you would look at those people who were
14 customarily and directly dependent on the resource, who lived
15 close to the resource and who had few alternatives and other
16 options for hunting. So that's an option, too, not to do c&t
17 at all.

18

19 And it's certainly one that there are members of the
20 committee who are -- the committee was quite divided actually.
21 So there are some pretty strong opinions on all sides. And
22 they felt that it was absolutely imperative to get the Regional
23 Council input on this and find out what the local people were
24 feeling. I've tried to be brief. If anybody has any
25 questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any questions?

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think I said Section .805, it's
30 .804 of ANILCA.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any comments? You
33 know, basically I said what I thought and what I think. I see
34 a need for c&t when there's a shortage of animals. I see a
35 need for c&t if we want to limit who can come in and hunt the
36 resources. Or if we want to add the adjoining region like we
37 did with the black bears and it's worked so far. We haven't
38 had any controversies here in our region, not at least since
39 I've been involved and I don't see any difficulty in operating
40 the way we've been doing. Unless there's some other comments
41 from the Council members, you know, I have nothing else to add.

42

43 Anybody have any comments? Bert.

44

45 MR. GRIEST: If I remember correctly the language --
46 the legislative language and it's spelled out here, it's not
47 really specifically required by ANILCA, however, it's a good
48 tool. Primarily when there's a shortage of resource and I
49 think Park Service entertained the idea of identifying certain
50 villages closest to the resource and then going from there, et

00113

1 cetera. I was -- when it first came out I was kind of worried
2 about the overall effect that time would be used kind of
3 against -- unnecessarily restricting the historical use. For
4 instance, muskox. The first time I heard of muskox being
5 translated into Eskimo when we were doing land selection
6 processes was in Kobuk, in Shungnak, where they talked about
7 (In Inupiat), which is the Eskimo definition of muskox and they
8 used to harvest them way back when. And now that they're not
9 around, you know, c&t determinations in a way unnecessarily
10 restrict them from not being able to harvest those anymore.
11 That's kind of the -- what I was concerned about. But it is, I
12 think, a useful tool, like Willie alluded to and illuminated,
13 that it is -- some things, user conflicts, it helps in solving
14 those. And I think at least it could be very useful on a
15 temporary basis or some long-term in terms of identifying use
16 of resources for subsistence users.

17
18 I'd like to strike that balance, you know, but I am
19 concerned about the overall effect and I still am.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So the way we're operating would
22 satisfy what you are doing. So it would be our recommendation
23 then that there be a no change on the eight factors that we
24 use. And if there's modified factors, that they will come back
25 to us and we can make our recommendations at that time.

26
27 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Can I make a comment, Mr. Chairman.
28 From my point of view, I actually I think it's really
29 important, too. And what this would do is the c&t definition,
30 when you tell me as a Federal land manager that you want to
31 limit the harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users,
32 that c&t definition tells me who those Federally qualified
33 subsistence users are that you want to limit it to. So it's
34 really important to me that you are really happy with that
35 definition. And just from my own point of view, the Council,
36 if you base your c&t on what you, as a Council, decide are the
37 people that should have c&t, that gives me the most direct line
38 to you and what you want. So if that was the option, instead
39 of having people go through these eight factors and rate them
40 and have them -- you know, it's like a numerical thing.
41 Instead, if you could say, like directly who you thought had
42 c&t and tell me that directly and that would be the Federally
43 qualified subsistence users, that, to me, would be the most
44 direct line.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, we've told you in the sheep
47 that the Federally qualified subsistence users in Unit 23.
48 That's pretty direct.

49
50 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: But that wasn't your decision. That

00114

1 in Unit 23 was already on the books as the c&t for sheep. And
2 that was decided on those eight factors. But you got to
3 remember that also included Anaktuvuk and that also gives the
4 backside of the DeLongs to Barrow and all those guys. It's
5 really important to me that you be able to say exactly who you
6 want in there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy first and then I'll get to
9 you. I didn't want to get into a debate but, holy cow.

10

11 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Yeah, I'm sorry.

12

13 MR. RABINOWITCH: Both Ida Hildebrand and I are part of
14 this work group. And as has been said there's been some pretty
15 robust discussion among the members of the group. I would
16 point out just one thing. I mean I could get into a lot of
17 discussion but I'm going to not start that. In your book where
18 Helen pointed out, under Tab I, I believe it is, on the second
19 page of that in about the middle. The eight factor -- what's
20 referred to as the eight factor approach is accurate but also
21 note that it says and Regional Council recommendation. If you
22 carefully -- and this is a very correct statement, in my
23 opinion, if you read the Federal Board regulation as it is now
24 written, there is an eight factor approach, just as Helen
25 described, and the regulation also says that the Board will
26 essentially listen to and pay attention to Council
27 recommendations. So I think that the current, the status quo,
28 as a blending of the two -- I just want to highlight that
29 point.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

32

33 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I'll leave it at that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Helen.

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to kind of emphasize a
38 little bit of what Lois was saying, too. I was trying to be
39 brief because I knew you wanted this to be brief, but I should
40 have probably pointed out some of the problems we've had with
41 doing the eight factors -- with following this eight factor
42 approach, and we had some of that here in this region.

43

44 When we were doing black bear c&t we came up to a
45 problem where there were some communities who didn't take black
46 bear. And then there was, you know, well, do those communities
47 get c&t for black bear because they're in Unit 23, and we did
48 give it to them. But technically, we didn't have any evidence
49 to support that because we were following this system. And
50 that's really been the dilemma that the Board has been in, is

00115

1 that, if we follow this existing eight factors way of doing it,
2 then we sometimes don't have information to fulfill those eight
3 factors, and yet the region wants to give it to people.
4 Because you see yourselves as a whole. You see yourselves as
5 unified people which is different from what the regulation
6 says.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it's coming from a Council
9 recommendation.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It does. It does, but it's been
12 something we've been really criticized for. That perhaps these
13 need to be more flexible is what I'm saying. And then the
14 other problem we've had is that we have these -- we go through
15 this long process of these long reports that we have to give
16 you pages and pages and pages that we write up and really the
17 decision is never based on some of those factors at all. And
18 some of them, like sharing is something consistent throughout
19 the state for every resource in every community. So there's
20 nothing -- it doesn't create any distinction between
21 communities at all. Do you see what I'm saying?

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well.....

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think it needs.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:if we're going to go on a
28 cultural and historical data, you know, if a black bear decides
29 to go to Kivalina and somebody shoots it over there I want them
30 to be able to shoot it.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's right.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Even though there's no black bear
35 out there.

36

37 MS. DALLE-MOLLE: Then you really need to think about
38 whether you want to do it the way you're doing it now.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So I don't want to stop them from
43 shooting that black bear if they want to.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I agree, absolutely.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: At the same token, those Kivalina
48 folks come to Kotzebue and hunt black bear, I want to hunt
49 black bear too.

50

00116

1 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz. A quick comment. One of
2 the frustrations I have had and the Staff for the State and
3 that I have observed on the Federal side is that the c&t
4 process breaks down subsistence into these tiny little units,
5 often for which there's really no information other than oral
6 history or local knowledge information. And the systems don't
7 work in small little units. These are communities who look at
8 the whole environment and take advantage of all the resources
9 that are around them. And making c&t's for black bear and
10 wolverine and white fish and pike is, to me, a bureaucratic
11 absurdity. And that what we need to be doing is looking at, if
12 c&t is important here and Lois explained one reason that it
13 was, that it makes a lot more sense to me, personally, to be
14 looking at it on a community or a regional level. Making these
15 blanket c&t's and not be fiddling around with the little pieces
16 all the time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The only time we should be fiddling
19 around with little pieces is when there's a shortage of
20 animals. That's the way I look at it.

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, you're going to fiddle around
23 in little pieces if you do it with the eight factors. And we
24 may sit here and say, well, we've already done it for the whole
25 region, we don't need too worry too much but we have fish
26 coming up, and then we'll be dealing with it on every little
27 fish species.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken.

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.
32 You know I would suggest that the problem isn't so much with
33 the eight factors but rather the problem is how the eight
34 factors are applied. And I think, you know, if you were to use
35 something like the eight factors as a general guideline to
36 evaluate, with input from the Council, say, communities and
37 areas. And basically the question that you're looking for is
38 is this a subsistence community area or is it not? And I
39 think, you know, taken as a whole, you know, and using that as
40 a way of organizing information, you know, I think you'd
41 probably conclude for example that Noatak was a subsistence
42 community by looking at the eight factors in relation to the
43 whole community. And the whole variety of resources they use
44 and the sharing patterns and everything else. Once you've made
45 the determination that it's a subsistence community, and up in
46 Noatak, as I think Jim has indicated, basically should get c&t
47 for everything that walks, crawls, flies and swims, now and in
48 the past and in the future to accommodate the flexibility, the
49 kind of things that Willie is talking about. And then it's
50 only a question of, you know, where does that c&t determination

00117

1 apply. And I think that could be worked out in the process of
2 working with the Councils to talk about traditional use areas
3 and so forth. What needs to -- you know, it needs to provide
4 some level of flexibility so that, you know, it can accommodate
5 shifts in resources and things -- and people's, you know,
6 movement patterns.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Where would your comments fit on
9 those things up there?

10
11 MR. ADKISSON: I don't know, modified other or whatever.
12 Call them the modified factors. Like I said, I personally
13 don't think there's anything wrong with the eight factors. I
14 think in some cases they're quite useful. I think that the
15 problem becomes applying them to a species by species
16 determination and feeling like you're rigidly confined to them.
17 I mean the whole problem with the thing is you're taking a
18 living, dynamic system and you're trying to categorize it and
19 confine it to.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Who are we confusing when you -- I
22 mean not confusing but who's slapping you in the face with
23 this? You know what I mean. We determine that somebody has a
24 c&t, what village, and then you're saying that you have a
25 problem?

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, the solicitor has told me that
28 he has been criticized very heavily by other people outside the
29 Federal government saying, how can they be doing this? They
30 can't do c&t this way? And he says we're just waiting to be
31 sued on how we're doing c&t because we don't follow this
32 system. The problem is three years down the line we might have
33 a different Board, might have different people, might have a --
34 I mean I may be gone and there is going to be somebody who's
35 like I can't give c&t for this, we don't meet any of those
36 eight factors.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ida and then Fred.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
41 member. In reference to what Ken just said was the
42 recommendation much like the one made by RuRAL Cap and Carl
43 Jack yesterday. That c&t, if it's established for a region,
44 for instance, this region has c&t for caribou, therefore this
45 is a subsistence region, they have c&t after that for all
46 species in the region. Then you wouldn't go back and say, what
47 about muskox, what about sheefish, what about whatever. And as
48 for where on that list of options it would go, it would go into
49 other or any modification of any of those things. It doesn't
50 mean you have to choose one and it's over. You could say, we

00118

1 like the eight factors but it's only limited to use, in some
2 instances we want to include greater emphasis and reliance upon
3 traditional knowledge, traditional use areas, et cetera.
4 Whatever you define those as the factors that you want
5 considered and the weight that you want given to those factors.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

8
9 MR. GRIEST: So you're talking about modified.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, the Council recommendation
12 option, that's what it sounds like. Fred.

13
14 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I just want to enhance what
15 Helen has spoken about with the solicitor. When we were
16 addressing that same part of that -- and nowhere in ANILCA is
17 c&t required. The question was why are we doing it? And when
18 do we do it? When do we apply c&t? You know, those are the
19 critical issues that need to be addressed. And for what
20 purpose are we segregating these people by the animals that
21 they survive on? You know, we're trying to get a clear
22 understanding of what the Councils see, you know, the role that
23 c&t plays in resource management. You know, I looked at this
24 and I made the comment during our meetings that, what are we
25 doing this for? And why? You know, you could put c&t on the
26 record and then as soon as it comes up -- there's a shortage
27 that comes up, the first thing that's going to say, whoops, we
28 better update that c&t. So, you know, I don't want to see a
29 duplication of effort in that sense. And I think that -- you
30 know, personally I have a problems with the eight factors
31 because I think how they're applied individually to a species
32 and to a community are somewhat puzzling to me. So I would
33 encourage the Council to sort of think this out carefully
34 before making a recommendation.

35
36 Thanks.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Fred. How much time do
39 we got, I mean not today but.....

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: To come up with a Regional Council
42 recommendation?

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Until the end of today because we
47 have to have a recommendation by our meeting in November. And
48 since you won't be reconvening you really need to -- I don't
49 know if they can -- can they poll people?

50

00119

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy.

4
5 MR. RABINOWITCH: A couple of comments. It's my
6 understanding that the Chairman of the group, which is also the
7 Chairman of the Federal Board, Mitch Demientieff, wants to
8 reconvene the work group in, I think late November, Ida.

9
10 MS. HILDEBRAND: Uh-huh.

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: And so all the 10 Councils would
13 meet, the comments, et cetera, you know, collected together and
14 written up and then brought to the work group in late November.
15 There's not a time table that I recall we discussed beyond
16 that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's going to come back to us
19 anyway, right?

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, if -- it's going to go from the
22 work group to the full Board. And then in simple scenarios,
23 the Board will either decide to leave things the way they are,
24 at which point you drop it because you're just leaving it the
25 way it is and it won't come back to you maybe other than in a
26 status report. Or the Board would choose to propose to make a
27 change of any kind that's been discussed, and then, yes, that
28 would come back to you. You know, that's what Mitch has
29 pointed out is his intention.

30
31 My comment yesterday -- the Seward Peninsula Council, I
32 think, struggled a little bit along the same lines as you, that
33 gee it might be nice to have a little more time. They offered
34 their comments as much as you're doing, and I would expect that
35 they may well kick it around some more in the future. I think
36 it is legitimately complicated. And the fact that the work
37 group, again, that Ida and I are a part of, have had pretty
38 vigorous discussions, I think just helps illustrate that it is
39 complicated. It's serious. It's important. And you know,
40 maybe nobody wants to rush into changing things too quickly.
41 I'm not suggesting you don't change things, but it's important
42 that you should be thoughtful about it. But I think that's
43 probably agreed to by most people.

44
45 Let me make one other comment -- well, one or two other
46 quick comments. Many people do say that ANILCA doesn't require
47 c&t determinations and I think that's correct. But I would
48 point out that ANILCA doesn't require a lot of things. ANILCA
49 doesn't require rural determinations. It just says, provide
50 the opportunity to rural people. But yet, rural determinations

00120

1 are done so you know who's rural and who isn't. So personally
2 I think that's a bit of a weak argument. That's just my own
3 view. The statement made, I think, is correct.

4
5 And the other point I want to make, back to Ken
6 Adkisson's comments. His comments are pointing you at
7 something that's in your Board book, if you look on Page 2,
8 it's the box at the bottom. And what this box points out is
9 that just for example, and I don't want to put words in your
10 mouth but other people have already said this; you might, for
11 instance like the idea that's been put on the table here that
12 you look at a community, and we'll stick with Noatak as an
13 example, and you clearly know that they're a subsistence
14 community, you know that they're interested in caribou, you
15 know that they're interested in moose when they're around, et
16 cetera, et cetera. And you decide that they should just have
17 c&t for everything that walks, crawls, flies, et cetera, like
18 Ken did, as opposed to doing moose separate and caribou
19 separate. That may well be a very efficient and effective
20 thing to do. And so what this is trying to say is that you can
21 -- if you like that idea, you could put that down as something
22 that you're interested in perhaps seeing.

23
24 So I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, I'm just
25 trying to point out that those comments are I think organized
26 in this box.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

29
30 MR. GRIEST: I'd like to suggest that the Council
31 recommendation option, I would like to gravitate towards that.
32 It's not really spelled out in ANILCA. And some of the factors
33 that we use in this area might not be applicable in some of the
34 other areas. You know, the Anchorage area, for instance, et
35 cetera. And I think that we can come out with some very sound
36 determinations here.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Don't forget the walk, crawl, fly.

39
40 MR. GRIEST: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other comments? So you'll --
43 throw them in and you'll figure out what we want, right?

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Willie, are you going to vote
46 on that; that was a motion Bert made?

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert was that a motion?

49
50 MR. GRIEST: Yes.

00121

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

2

3 MS. WARD: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion. Sounds like a good
6 plan. I think so. Any other discussion on the motion?
7 Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Unanimous. You got it.

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Two quick items. One, I
20 noticed that we had action on the minutes of February, we had a
21 special meeting July 29 on the sheep. A pretty hot item that
22 we talked about, I think we ought to go ahead and ratify the
23 minutes even though they're not before us. Are they before us?
24 No. But you sent them to us, though?

25

26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, there they are, okay. We need
29 to take action on the minutes to approve the minutes of July
30 29, 1998.

31

32 MR. GRIEST: So moved.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

35

36 MR. STONEY: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion. All those in favor
39 signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. The last item is a Council
48 member attendance. One of our Council member has missed two
49 meetings in a row and our charter calls for us to write a
50 letter to the Chair regarding his attendance, and that would be

00122

1 Walter Sampson's attendance. I would also like to point out in
2 writing this letter that I think we also need to mention that
3 he has abstained in two critical actions that this Council took
4 regarding subsistence and we need to point that out and ask
5 Mitch to write to Secretary Babbitt to replace him. And we
6 probably need a motion.

7
8 MR. GRIEST: I think the latter part requires a motion,
9 I think the other one could be a directive.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

12
13 MR. GRIEST: I'd like to make a motion that we write a
14 letter to the Secretary of Interior. I think if we direct the
15 person, then at the next Council meeting we can act on it as a
16 motion.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you want me to do it?

19
20 MR. GRIEST: Do it and then talk with him, deal with
21 it, and then at the Council meeting we can deal with it at the
22 next meeting as a directive.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Do you want me to write a
25 letter to Mitch then?

26
27 MR. GRIEST: Basically follow our policy.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, I can do that.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear all that.
32 Could you just repeat what he said.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, Bert is instructing me to go
35 ahead and write a letter to Mitch on Mr. Sampson's attendance
36 and follow our charter here.

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: To remove him?

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

41
42 MR. GRIEST: Yes. Charter and policy, yeah.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes. Any objections to that?

45
46 MR. STONEY: No objection.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert, you had one -- any other
49 items?

50

00123

1 MR. GRIEST: I wanted to talk about the Council
2 stipend. Basically -- I think Norton Sound you mentioned, made
3 a motion to ask -- write a letter to the Secretary of Interior
4 asking for the Council stipends again?

5
6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That hasn't been acted on yet. The
7 Chairs were supposed to write a letter back to, I think is it
8 Mitch or.....

9
10 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
11 member. The recommendation was from the Seward Peninsula
12 Regional Council that the request for compensation be
13 resubmitted.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, so we'll do that. And the
16 other thing that you were requesting is the Council concerns
17 that I asked Mitch to write a letter to the Secretary.

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, you do that in a motion form.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You need that in a motion?

22
23 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred.

26
27 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Could I just offer one thing, Mr.
28 Chairman, is that, stipends versus honorariums, I think, should
29 be looked into. There's a significant distinction between them
30 two, and your stipends -- maybe you ought to look at using the
31 term honorarium or something like that. That might be able to
32 be applied.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: As long as it means pay me -- no,
35 I'm just kidding. Okay, we'll do that if it comes back.

36
37 MR. GRIEST: Okay.

38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It still needs to be in a motion
40 form.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Which?

43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The request for honorarium.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh.

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And your letter to request Mitch to
49 write a letter to the Secretary for removal.

50

00124

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So I'm asking for two motions. Who
2 wants to do the first one?

3
4 MR. GRIEST: Honorary. To go ahead.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, if you guys don't want to get
7 paid that's fine with me. Or should we just go ahead -- well,
8 you need a motion for us to go ahead and ask for the stipends
9 again or -- Ida, what do you think? Do we just.....

10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Did Seward Penn do it as a motion?

12
13 MS. HILDEBRAND: They just made a recommendation.

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, okay. That's a recommendation
16 then.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. But you said we need a motion
19 for that.....

20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: For that directive or that -- that's
22 also a recommendation. So I don't think you need a motion on
23 that.

24
25 MR. GRIEST: No, we don't need a motion on that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On the removal?

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's a recommendation on the
30 removal, yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. All right. Any other
33 business?

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Meeting date.

36
37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Meeting date.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Date and time of our next meeting.
40 Anybody have any problem with March 2.

41
42 MR. GRIEST: No, sounds good.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: March 2.

45
46 MR. STONEY: March 2, okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, Barb.

49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. (In Inupiat)?

00125

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Where do you guys want to hold it,
2 that's the other question?

3
4 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I don't know, maybe I'm just being a
5 little cautious, but I think on your action on the Council
6 members is -- it sends a strong message and it's very serious
7 and I think that maybe perhaps an action item on this would be
8 appropriate because of the nature of the situation. You're
9 actually talking about removal and so you need to take that
10 very serious.

11
12 MR. GRIEST: It's in our policy -- it's in our charter,
13 we're just asking as a directive.

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: They're making a request.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then they're making a request.

20
21 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I just want to be, you know, just to
22 be cautious.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If Mitch needs that then we can do
25 it the next time.

26
27 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We could poll.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: March 2?

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: March 2.

36
37 MR. STONEY: March 2.

38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat)?

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Where? Anybody want to take it to
42 one of their villages? Kiana, so we can talk about Squirrel
43 River moose.

44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiat).

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any objection to Kiana?

48
49 MR. GRIEST: Kiana sounds good.

50

00126

1 MR. STONEY: No objections.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Let's go to Kiana March 2.
4 Any other business that needs to come before us? Hearing none,
5 motion's order to adjourn. Anyone wish to make a motion?

6

7 MS. WARD: Motion to adjourn.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

10

11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any objections.

14

15 MR. STONEY: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Hearing none, we're adjourned.
18 Thank you all for coming to Kotzebue and giving your input in
19 helping us solve our problems. I didn't have to use the spear.

20

21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

22

* * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R&R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 126ny contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Northwest Arctic Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meeting taken electronically by me on the 24th day of September 1998, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Technical Institute, Kotzebue, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of October 1998.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/5/02